

GC
942.3801
So53n
v.28 ✓
1400925



ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 00675 8442

M. L.

GENEALOGY COLLECTION



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/proceedings28some_0

*Somersetshire
Archæological & Natural History
Society.*

Proceedings during the Year 1882.

VOL. XXVIII.





SOMERSETSHIRE
ARCHÆOLOGICAL
AND
NATURAL HISTORY
SOCIETY'S
PROCEEDINGS, 1882.



VOL. XXVIII.

TAUNTON:
J. F. HAMMOND, HIGH STREET.
LONDON: LONGMANS, GREEN, READER, AND DYER.
MDCCCLXXXIII.

Regrawal - \$220.00 (34 mcs)
11/20/64

1400925

Preface.



The Society must thank B. W. Greenfield, Esq., for the gift of the coloured plate of the Arms of the Meriets.

E. G.

Contents.

PART I.—PROCEEDINGS.

	TUESDAY.	PAGE
Opening Meeting at Chard	1
Report of Council	2
Financial Statement	5
Appointment of Officers	6
President's Address	7
Parish Church visited	17
Grammar School	21
Waterloo House	22
Manor Court House	23
Membury Camp	27
„ Church	28
„ Quakers' Meeting House	66, 31
Evening Meeting—		
The Manor of Chard	33
WEDNESDAY.		
Combe St. Nicholas—Church	35
Northay Barrow	37
Whitestaunton Manor House	40
„ Roman Villa	42
„ Church	43
Wadeford—Roman Villa...	44
Evening Meeting—		
The County Boundary...	45
Charter relating to West Monkton	45
The Borough of Chard	46
Star Chamber Proceedings—Chard Tithes, 1568	47
Waterleston, now Weston Farm—Star Chamber Proceedings	52
Waterleston—Bonner Family of	53

	THURSDAY.	PAGE
Leigh House	54
Ford Abbey	55
Winsham Church	59
Wayford Manor House	61
„ Daubeney Family	62
„ Church	65
White Down	65
Cricket St. Thomas	66
Membury Meeting House	66
Local Museum	67
Library	68
Museum Additions	77

PART II.—PAPERS.

On part of the County Boundary between Somerset and Devon: by James B. Davidson, M.A., F.S.A. ...	1
The Manor of Chard: by E. Green (Hon. Sec.) ...	28
The Brett Family: by Rev. F. Brown, F.S.A. ...	79
West Monkton Charter: by F. H. Dickinson, F.S.A. ...	89
Meriet of Meriet and of Hestercombe, (with large folding Pedigree): by B. W. Greenfield, M.A. ...	99

ILLUSTRATIONS.

View of Chard about 1750	front.
Manor Court House	pt. i. 23
Ceilings of Manor Court House	„ 24, 25
Finds in Northay Barrow	„ 37
Roof of Early Manor House, Whitestaunton	„ 40
Bench Ends—Whitestaunton Church	„ 44
County Boundary—	
Map No. 1—Whitestaunton to Forches Corner	pt. ii. 21
Map No. 2—Ancient Boundaries of Pitminster	„ 24
Armorials of Meriet Family	„ 99

Proceedings
of the
Somersetshire Archæological and
Natural History Society,
during the Year 1882.

THE Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Society was held in the Town Hall, Chard, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 15th, 16th, 17th August.

Mr. E. H. ELTON, the retiring President, said his period of office having now drawn to a close, nothing remained for him but the pleasing duty of installing his successor, his cousin, Mr. Charles Elton, of Whitestaunton. It was needless for him to introduce to them one who was so well known in the neighbourhood, and also so well known in connection with archæology, but he felt he must congratulate the Society upon having elected Mr. Elton, because he did not know any one who, from his scholarship and the patient study he had given to matters archæological, was so thoroughly well fitted to fill the position. He should detain them no longer, but let his mantle fall gracefully on his cousin.

Mr. CHARLES I. ELTON then took the chair. He said he was extremely gratified for the kind way in which they had received him, and for the exceedingly flattering speech which his cousin had made regarding him. He had for a long time taken the deepest interest in the history, and especially the archæological history, of this county, and in the history of his own country. It would be his duty to say something of their local antiquities at a later stage of the proceedings. At pre-

sent he would do nothing more than thank them thus briefly for the honour they had done him in electing him President for the ensuing year.

Mr. E. GREEN, the Hon. Sec., then read the

Report of the Council.

“Your Council, in making their 34th Annual Report, may congratulate the Society on its continued prosperity, and on the interest taken generally in its work. The number of Members has increased about 20 during the year.

“The Report of the Treasurer now, for the first time, covers the whole year, 1881, from 1st January to 31st December, inclusive, and shows a balance in favour of the Society of £19 11s. This sum is less by £30 than the balance shown last year—a difference accounted for by the heavy cost of the former volume of *Proceedings*. The debt on the Castle Purchase Fund has been reduced by £113 13s. 3d., and now remains at £562 3s. 4d., against £675 16s. 7d. of last year. The Society must thank the family of the late Mr. William Baker, of Bridgwater, for a contribution of £20 towards this fund.

“A new insurance has been effected on the contents of the Museum.

“Amongst the donations the Council would particularly notice the present, by Miss Atherstone, of Burnham, of a large painting in oil, representing the Coronation of Queen Victoria, a fine example of John Martin, who was a frequent visitor to Mr. Atherstone, who then resided in the house (adjoining the Castle) now the property of the Society. The Council, in consideration of the munificent present made by Miss Atherstone to the Society, beg to recommend that that lady be elected an honorary life Member.

“The late Mrs. Hugo, widow of the Rev. Thos. Hugo, an early contributor of valuable papers to our volume of *Proceedings*, by her will proved in December, 1881, left certain

MSS. to the Society, upon condition of their publication, and the question of their acceptance is now under the consideration of the Committee.

“With regard to the publication of a *Bibliotheca Somersetensis*, which has always been an object of the Society, Mr. E. Green, your Hon. Sec., since the subject was mentioned last year, has produced to the Council a manuscript of such a work, on which he has been engaged for the past twenty years, and the Society may therefore hope that soon, without longer delay than may be necessary, their wish in respect to this subject may be gratified.

“Your Committee have considered the question suggested last year of new or additional centres, to be worked by Local Secretaries in various parts of the county, under the head centre at Taunton, but at present no definite scheme has been determined on.

“The Society have to very deeply regret the loss by death of Mr. Charles Moore, F.G.S., a frequent and valuable contributor to the journal, whose great knowledge of geology was so readily at the service of the Members, and whose kindness of manner towards all—the youngest equally with the eldest—made his information and his company always so agreeable.

“Your Council report that in exercising the authority given to them at the Annual Meeting of 1880, to have proper roads and pathways made over the Castle Green to the Castle, in accordance with the title deed, the Committee placed a line of curb stones across the Castle Green, to mark out the road conveyed, and that such stones were taken up by the proprietor of the Green, and that the access of the Society to the Castle has on market days been continually obstructed and interfered with by the proprietor of the Green and the Market Trustees as lessees under him. As this carriage access is of great importance to the Society’s property, your Council ask from the General Meeting authority for the Committee to adopt such measures and take such legal proceedings as may

be necessary to secure for the Society the line of road conveyed to them."

The Very Rev. the DEAN OF WELLS, in proposing the adoption of the Report, said the resolution which he had been asked to move was one that required very little argument to support it. He welcomed the opportunity which had been given him for becoming better acquainted with the work of the Society, and he ventured to cherish the ambition that before very long he might be a member of it. He welcomed also the opportunity which it gave him of enlarging his acquaintance with the county, with the diocese of Bath and Wells. He looked forward with much interest to that matter to which reference had been made, the *Bibliography of Somerset*, which would no doubt give some very valuable information. When a stranger came to a county he generally wished to obtain all the information he could with regard to it, and such a book would be of great assistance to him,

Mr. JEROM MURCH, in seconding the Report, said he would congratulate them upon this meeting, which he looked upon as an indication that archæology had not lost its interest in the county. He was glad to hear that the number of members had increased during the past year. The Report had alluded to the loss the Society had sustained by the death of Mr. Charles Moore. He begged to thank the meeting on behalf of the Bath Literary and Scientific Institution for the valuable assistance which they gave to the people of Bath in purchasing the geological collection of Mr. Moore. For 40 years he was employed in making that collection. There was another subject to which he wished to refer, and that was to invite the members of the Archæological Society, when they visited Bath, to view the very important excavations which were being made there, and which he might say had resulted in the most interesting discovery of recent times.

Mr. TURNER, expressing his regret at the absence of Mr. H. G. Badcock, then read the Treasurers' statement.

Treasurers' Account.

The Treasurers in Account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1881.

Dr.			
		£	s d
By 1880.		50	10 8
Balance, Dec. 31st.	...	18	18 0
Members' Entrance Fees...	...		
Members' Arrears of Sub-	...	9	2 6
scriptions ... ..	...	
Members' Subscriptions	...	221	14 6
for the year 1881...	...		
Members' Subscriptions in	...		
advance ... ..	...	6	5 6
Excursion Tickets...	...	18	10 0
Museum Admission Fees...	...	22	10 8
Sale of Volumes of Pro-	...		
ceedings ... ..	...	25	16 0
Art Exhibition for use of	...		
Rooms and Gas ... ..	...	3	5 0

£ 376 12 10

1881, Dec. 31st.

Balance	£ 19 11 0
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----------

1882, March 1, Examined and compared with the vouchers, and found correct.

CR.		£	s	d
1881.				
To	Expenses attending Annual Meeting,			
	Travelling, &c.	25	1	10
„	Stationery, Printing, &c.	7	11	5
„	Coal, Gas, and Water	29	12	7
„	Cases, Fixtures, Repairs, &c.	18	7	4
„	Purchase of Books, Specimens, &c....	7	2	9
„	Balance of account for Printing Vol. XXIV.	11	13	6
„	Balance of account for Printing Vol. XXV.	42	14	6
„	Hammond, on account of Printing Vol. XXVI.	70	0	0
„	Illustrations for Vol. XXVI.	14	15	4
„	Curator's Salary. 1 year to Christmas, 1881	85	0	0
„	Subscription to Harleian Society, 1881	1	1	0
„	Subscription to Harleian Society, Register Section, 1881	1	1	0
„	Subscription to Palæontographical Society, 1881	1	1	0
„	Subscription to Ray Society, 1881	1	1	0
„	Rates and Taxes	12	3	8
„	Insurance (new policy)	3	6	8
„	Postage of vols. of 1 proceedings	7	4	9
„	Postage, Carriage, &c.	16	11	6½
„	Sundries	1	11	11½
„	Balance	19	11	0

£ 376 12 10

H. & H. J. BADCOCK, *Hon. Treasurers.*

ALFRED MAYNARD.

EDWIN SLOPER.

Taunton Castle Purchase Fund.

Treasurers' Account from 1st January to 31st December, 1881.

	<i>Receipts.</i>	£	s	d
By Donation from Mr. Marshall		5	0	0
„ Legacy from the late Mrs. S.				
A. Payne	50	0	0	
„ Proceeds of Fancy Ball, 22nd				
Dec., 1881	51	13	6	
„ Sale of Pump	3	0	0	
„ Conversazione Meeting			9	10
„ Rents of Premises	47	3	8	
„ Rent of Castle Hall	47	8	0	
„ Balance	562	3	4	

£ 766 18 4

<i>Expenditure.</i>		<i>£</i>	<i>s</i>	<i>d</i>
To Balance, 31st Dec., 1880, viz :				
Loan	£700	0	0	
Less Balance in Bank	24	3	5	
		<hr/>		
„ Repairs to Buildings, &c.		675	16	7
„ Insurance		29	5	10
„ Rates and Taxes		3	16	6
„ Attendance at Castle Hall and sundry Expenses		10	9	11
„ Gas		9	0	10
„ Interest on Borrowed Money		4	6	10
		34	1	10

£ 766 18 4

1881. Dec. 31st.

Loan	600	0	0
------	-----	-----	-----	---	---

Less Balance in Bank ...	37 16 8 £ 562 3 4
--------------------------	-------------------

H. & H. J. BADCOCK, *Hon. Treasurers.*

EDWIN SLOPER.
ALFRED MAYNARD.

ALFRED MAYNARD.

1882, March 1st, Examined and compared with the vouchers
and found correct,

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, the Treasurers' statement was adopted.

The Rev. S. CARTWRIGHT proposed the re-election of the Vice-Presidents, and the motion was seconded, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. H. H. WINWOOD proposed the re-election of the Treasurer, and the General and Local Secretaries. He said he should have liked very much to propose that an old friend of his, Mr. Hunt, should be included amongst the Secretaries, but he did not see him present. He supposed he had not returned from that Continental trip which he took last year for the benefit of his health. With regard to the Local Secretaries, he was glad to have to add the name of Mr. Mitchell. It was very important that a town of this description should have a local museum. When he came to Chard he asked for the museum, for he liked to see local curiosities, and he was glad to see some interesting fossils; but he might state that he always looked on the fossils for the names of the localities where they were found. He hoped the gentlemen in the town would pardon him for presuming to mention anything with regard to the arrangement of their Museum, but, having been engaged in the Bath Museum lately among the results of the labours of the late Charles Moore, he found the greatest hindrance in his work when the localities were not marked on the stones. He hoped, therefore, they might carry out this suggestion at Chard. With regard to the General Secretaries, he might say that a motion was made as to the working of the head centre and the small centres. He sent a communication some time ago from his centre to the head centre, but as the matter referred to the neighbourhood of Wiltshire he presumed the head centre at Taunton thought it was unnecessary to take steps to secure the remains to which he referred. He mentioned this to show that the small centres had been doing something, and he hoped they would continue their labours.

Mr. KERSLAKE seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Rev. Mr. GRAFTON proposed the re-election of the Committee.

The Rev. Preb. BULLER seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. TURNER proposed the re-election of Mr. W. Bidgood as Curator.

Mr. BENNETT seconded, observing that it required no remarks from him to commend Mr. Bidgood to them.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The selection of the place of meeting for the next year was left to the Committee, in accordance with the usual practice.

Several new Members were elected, and the business meeting concluded.

The PRESIDENT then proceeded to deliver his

Address.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE been much struck with the great intelligence and care displayed in the collection of articles for the Local Museum. It is of the greatest importance to a town where the study of history is to take root, as we hope may be the case in Chard, that the inhabitants should form collections to elucidate the local archæology. If a man only reads of something in a book without realising its actual appearance he will form a very indistinct idea of it, and in fact can hardly be said to have any knowledge of it at all. I am very glad that Mr. Winwood has pressed upon you the necessity of defining the exact locality in which each particular object has been found. It is often of the greatest importance to know whether a fossil or pre-historic implement was found at the bottom of a hill, or on the surface, or in some particular stratum—indeed far more important sometimes than to know the details of the classification or even the name of the fossil or the implement itself. I desire to say a few words upon the way in which we should regard the early history of man in this part of the world. Even among our own

hills the record of the race attains a vast antiquity. It is but the other day that the subject as far as this western peninsula was concerned was dismissed as a rule with some remarks about the Celts and the Phœnicians: but unmistakeable evidences have now been found showing that the valley of the Axe and the adjacent ranges of hills were inhabited by the tribes who in the Quaternary Age maintained their precarious existence in a perpetual war against wild beasts. It is well known to some of you how the discovery was made. A gentleman taking the train near Salisbury saw lying on the permanent way of the railroad what proved to be a "roach-backed" flint-axe of the rude "palæolithic" type. It was ascertained after long enquiries that the implement had come there in a load of gravel used for ballast, and on further enquiry it was found that it came with many others from a gravel bed not far from Chard, which had obviously at one time formed part of the bed of the great stream now shrunk to the limits of the little river that you know so well.

Now and again a gigantic river had overflowed its banks and risen into the combes and valleys where the hunter-tribes lived who had fashioned these implements out of the chert and flint of the hills. The flood would carry before it many of these weapons with other *débris* of the villages, and so in time they would be collected at the bottom of some pit or "pot-hole" formed by the eddies of the stream, which itself in time became filled with gravel and sand, and after the stream had in the lapse of ages disappeared, or all but disappeared, the relics of that ancient life would be found, as you have heard, at the bottom of a high hill of gravel ready to be dug and dispersed to meet the modern needs of society.

I should like to have told you the story of a discovery, which was made by myself with other friends at a cave called Hoyle's Mouth near Tenby, where we were the first to break through a thick floor of stalagmite in a den or cave far withdrawn in the limestone rock and to find the skeleton of a mighty bear,

the *Ursus Spelæus* of the books, of which we removed a portion to Oxford and left the rest to be re-discovered on another occasion, when the greatest surprise was forcibly expressed at the disappearance of half the bear. But I must pass without delay to the graphic pictures which Professor Boyd-Dawkins has drawn of the state of man in that most ancient Britain when (in the Professor's words) "the land stood 600 feet above its present level and the sea-board now marked by the sunken cliffs at the 100-fathom line reached far to the west of Ireland." To the southward a broad and level plain, the haunts of innumerable herds of wild cattle and wild horses, stretched from Cornwall to Spain, or at least to the Estuary of the Garonne. The animals migrated north or south according to the changes of climate and the consequent increase or diminution in the supplies of food, and close on them followed the tribes of men who are called the River-drift Hunters and the Cave-men, whose rough unpolished implements are still found scattered in the soil. From drawings or "scribings" found scratched upon mammoth-bones and horns of deer and bison in Pyrenean caves, it seems possible to know the physical appearance of these men. You may see the figure of the hunter standing by a mammoth or stalking the aurochs or a bison on the plain. The hunters appear to be tall and strong, shaggy-haired and Roman-nosed, and powerful of frame but undeveloped in intellect, if one may judge by the form of the skull. Little as it is to tell, that is nearly the sum of what we know about these tribes, for as the seasons suffered a further change, the earth swinging in her course and nodding her poles, the glacial tracts which had overwhelmed the relics of the oldest men gave way before an increasing warmth, during a period in which our country must have assumed its present geographical contour and have become ready for the advent of the more civilised people of the Neolithic Period, or age of the weapons of polished stone. These people were the pioneers from Asia who seem to have

brought with them a rudimentary civilisation, of which the continuity has never quite been broken in its long descent. They are named, according to various theories of their origin, Silurians or "Black Celts," or Iberians; and they are probably identical in origin with those tribes of small dark men in Ireland whose descendants called themselves the children of darkness and of the night. They may have crossed the North Sea and the Channel in several places, and it is certain that by creeping up from the estuaries into the valleys and spreading along the lines of down and mountain, they at last crossed the country from the Yorkshire Wolds to the Irish Sea, and from Kent to the Blackdown Hills, and so on further into the West. These are the builders of the "long barrows," of which so many have been found in Somerset. These barrows may be described as long mounds of earth constructed either as royal sepulchres, like the pyramids in Egypt, or as tribal cemeteries or "ossuaries," into which the bones of many warriors and the relics of many funeral feasts and sacrifices were swept together. The men were slight in build and had, so far as can be judged, heads of a peculiar long and narrow shape; whence the scientific saying or proverb, "Long barrows, long heads; round barrows and round heads." The women's heads and skeletons were, as Professor Rolleston ascertained by measurements, smaller in a very disproportionate degree to those of the men, and this of itself tells us something of the history of these tribes, for it shows at least that there could not have been much to eat, that the men took most and left the women but little, and that the weakest as was natural had to go to the wall.

I should wish particularly to refer to the admirable descriptions of some of these ancient people, which may be found in the writings of our neighbour Mr. Barnes, whose poems in the Dorset dialect have caused so much attention to be turned to our corner of the West. Mr. Barnes has described in a village lecture the picture that might have been seen by a

visitor to one of the little pastoral settlements which once occupied our valleys finding a refuge in time of war in one of those great camps which crown the neighbouring hills. The time of year selected by him is the end of the summer, when the oats and rye were reaped and the lawns and meadows round the homesteads had been mown "The cattle are on the downs, or in the hollows of the hills. Here and there are wide beds of fern, or breadths of gorse and patches of wild raspberry, with gleaming sheets of flowers. The swine are roaming in the woods and shady oak-glades, the nuts are studding the brown-leaved bushes. On the sunny side of some cluster of trees is the herdsman's round wicker house, with its brown conical roof and blue wreaths of smoke. In the meadows and basins of the sluggish streams stand clusters of tall elms waving with the nests of herons: the bittern, coot, and water-rail are busy among the rushes and flags of the reedy meres. Birds are 'churming' in the wood-girt clearings, wolves and foxes slinking to their covers, knots of maidens laughing at the water-spring, beating the white linen or flannel with their washing-bats, the children play before the doors of the round straw-thatched houses of the homestead, the peaceful abode of the sons of the oaky vale. On the ridges of the downs rise the sharp cones of the barrows, some glistening in white chalk, or red, the mould of a new burial, and others green with the grass of long years."

These barrows supply some slight details by which we may further realise the condition of these Neolithic tribes. They contain pottery incised with a rude ornamentation of cross-hatched lines, flint scrapers for dressing leather, and polished implements of stone in vast variety. A few ornaments of amber have been found, with here and there a golden stud or button on a breast-plate of stone, and even sometimes a cuirass or corselet of gold. Leaving the consideration of the "Age of polished stone implements," our enquiry now reaches a much more important epoch. Foreign commerce ap-

pears to have begun long before the arrival of the Roman legionaries. The men of the Bronze Age passing gradually along the shores of the Baltic and North Sea, came to our island at several points and began to dispossess and in many cases to enslave the ill-armed natives. The new comers had the vast material superiority of a knowledge of metal weapons, using all kinds of instruments in bronze, or a composition like bell-metal, consisting of about nine-tenths of copper and one-tenth of tin, to which by some process long lost, but said to have been quite recently re-discovered, they were able to give a fine cutting edge. The tin of Cornwall had not yet been discovered, but there were plentiful supplies in the neighbourhood of the Ural and Altai Ranges, to which localities we must refer the origin of these Bronze Age tribes. They seem to have been tall fair men of the type and probably of the race which is called the "White Finn." There is no need to describe in detail the discoveries which have been made in the "round-barrows" constructed by these "dolmen builders." The Local Museum and the other collections which have been made in the neighbourhood, will supply plenty of specimens of the bronze daggers, the grooved "celts," chisels, spear-heads, and axes, which are found in the graves and in the ditches round the camps which formed refuges in times of war. Something is known of the capacity of these men for trade and travel. It seems that long before Julius Cæsar forced a quarrel on the island kings, an extensive trade had been carried on between the western ports and the opposite coasts of Brittany. A Greek traveller who visited Cornwall and its neighbourhood in the 2nd century before Christ said that the people were extremely fond of strangers, and were civilised by their intercourse with the merchants. Some of the ports and markets may even now be identified. I have collected a few facts bearing upon this matter in a work which I recently published, and I will call your attention to their significance with reference to the question before us. The station on the Truro

River, which Ptolemy had called "the Outlets of Cenion," has lately been identified by the discovery of a huge slab of tin, shaped liked a knuckle-bone in the manner described by Posidonius. The emporium of Isaca can not be far from the site which the Romans afterwards selected for their permanent camp at Exeter. The trading port of Moridunum may reasonably be placed at Seaton, although there are difficulties as to the measurements of distance which appear in the old Itineraries. The course of the metal trade is shown by the names of places on the coast-road leading eastward from the Axe, as Stansa Bay and Stans-Ore point in Hampshire. The Greeks came for minerals, the Gauls for furs and skins and for those great wolf-dogs which they used in their domestic wars. There must have been many other sources of information by which the natives could learn what was passing abroad. 'The students were constantly crossing to take lessons in the insular Druidism; the slave-merchants followed the armies in time of war, the pedlars explored the trading roads to sell their trinkets of glass and ivory, and the travelling sword-smiths and bronze-tinkers must have helped in a great degree to spread the knowledge of the arts of civilized society.'

It is probable that the Western Damnonians were separated from the territories afterwards held by the Belgæ by wide reaches of forest, and by the spreading marshes in which the waters of the Tone and Parret were lost in those ancient times. Sir Henry de la Beche, in his account of the geology of the South-western Counties, has indicated the means by which our county was brought into its present shape and condition. "The lines of old sea-board about Sedgemoor, the remains found far inland of islands where the sands were drifted and a shingle beach thrown up, and the Roman antiquities found in the embankments and silt of the marshes, show that much of the land has been reclaimed within the historical period."

There are different opinions as to the date of the arrival of the Belgæ in these parts. For my own part I believe

that they did not push into this region until after Julius Cæsar's expedition to Britain. After the conquest of Gaul the Belgæ seem to have founded a settlement on the Southampton Water, and thence to have spread westward to the mouth of the Severn and to have built towns at Winchester, Bath, and Ilchester. The rising prosperity of the native states was marked by the foundation of these prosperous towns. When the Romans came they found the people in a thriving condition. The little western kingdoms were slowly learning the lessons of civilisation from the advancing power of Rome. Without repeating the dismal story of the Roman Conquest, I may remind you of the contrast between the British tribes, with their rising commerce and homely culture, and the terrible Romans, whose avarice has been so graphically described by Tacitus. "If their enemy was rich they were ravenous, if poor they lusted for dominion: and neither the East nor the West could satisfy them." The conscription, the heavy taxes, and the slavery of the natives in the mines and public works, must be set off against the advantage of belonging to the Empire. It was not until about the year A.D. 50 that any part of our own district was reduced to the condition of a Roman province. We are told that Vespasian and Titus about that time broke the forces of the two "mighty nations" of the South and West; and an inscription found at Wookey Hole at the foot of the Mendip Hills shows the turning point of Vespasian's chief campaign. It is probable that the Romans were principally attracted by the reports of the mineral riches of the West. The surface-iron was being worked in the Forest of Anderida and in the valley of the Severn; lead was already found in the High Peak, and it was said that the Mendips were covered with lead and possibly with silver "as with a garment," to adopt an expression used by Pliny the Naturalist. Many of the hill-tops in their immediate neighbourhood are covered with the *débris* of Roman iron-works. At Combe St. Nicholas and at Whitestaunton, for example,

we find great quantities of slag and refuse remaining from the mines which were first worked under Roman supervision, and which continued to yield an income long after the time at which they were described in Domesday Book. The Society will have an opportunity of visiting the remains of an extensive Roman Villa on Mr. J. Brown's estate at Combe St. Nicholas, and I may mention that the remains of another Villa have just been discovered in my own garden at White-staunton.¹

If time permitted I would refer to the accounts of the pleasant and easy life of the Romans in Britain, the large country houses, the great halls and libraries, the tennis courts, and the stiff Italian gardens with their trim hedges and long strips of lawn; of the hunting in the forest, and the dull hard life of the labourers whose cottages were clustered round the nobleman's mansion: all this and the like may be found by comparing the descriptions given by Pliny of his country houses, and the minute accounts remaining to us of the Villa of Sidonius Apollinaris, who was Bishop of Auvergne at the time when Hengist and Horsa or some like them were beginning their piratical incursions. The actual beginnings of the English Conquest may be told in the words of the old historian: "Many and frequent were the expeditions from Germany, and many were the lords who strove against each other in the regions of East Anglia and Mercia: and thereby arose unnumbered wars, but the names of the chieftains remain unknown by their very multitude." Looking down upon the Vale of Somerset, we may see for ourselves one of those districts, the area of an ancient conquest, where a tribe of Englishmen once settled down, with a code and customs of their own. The 'five fertile Hundreds' of Taunton Dean, comprising many parishes besides the town of

(1). This Villa has now been excavated under the superintendence of C. E. Davis, Esq., F.S.A. It is hoped that a description of the discoveries may be published in a later volume of the Society's *Proceedings*.

Taunton, form a district with peculiar local customs, which seem to denote that it had once been an ancient principality or kingdom, with separate laws of its own. The strangest peculiarity of this district consists in an exaggeration of the law of dower, which is perhaps only to be paralleled by certain usages which prevail in the Pyrenees. According to the custom of Taunton Dean, "if a tenant dies seised of customary lands of inheritance, his wife ought to inherit the same lands as heir to her husband, and to be admitted thereto to hold the same to her and her heirs for ever." The husband has under similar circumstances the privilege of succeeding as heir to his wife; but failing the widow or widower, the descent of the lands is to the youngest son, or, failing sons, to the youngest daughter, and so on in each degree. We have no time now to refer more particularly to the course of the English conquest in the west, and to the destruction of the British cities which left the country completely at the mercy of the invaders. Many of the towns and castles were burned and uprooted by the newcomers, who hated the life of cities. Some of the towns and great mansions which were spared at first were left neglected to be destroyed by the frost and rain. As the people became more civilised they seem to have regarded the Roman ruins with some feelings of wonder and regret, and I will end by citing part of a version of the poem called "The Ruin," contained in the *Exeter Book*, describing the destruction of a castle or fortress, in which some have desired to recognise the ancient City of Bath:—"Wondrous the wall-stone that Weird hath broken . . . the roof-tree riven, the gray gates despoiled. Often that wall withstood Rægar and Readfáh, chieftain after chieftain rising in storm. Bright was the burgh-place, and many the princely halls, and high was the roof of gold. . . . And the court is dreary, and the crowned roof lies low in the shadow of the purple arch. Princes of old time, joyous and gold-bright and splendidly decked, proud and with wine elate, in war-gear shone. They looked on their

treasures—on silver and gems, and on stones of price—and on this bright burgh of their broad realm. The stone court stands, the hot stream hath whelmed it, there where the bath was hot on the breast.”

Mr. E. SURTEES proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his instructive address.

The motion was seconded by the Very Rev. the Dean, and carried with acclamation.

The Members then visited the

Parish Church.

The Rev. Preb. BULLER, the Vicar, gave a description of the exterior of the edifice. He said he believed that he was right in saying that there was only one stone left belonging to the original church. This had been pointed out by the architect, Mr. Ferry, and it formed the foundation of one of the buttresses of the east end of the chancel. The present building was erected between the years 1400 and 1440, and was of the Perpendicular type peculiar to Somerset. The gargoyles were particularly beautiful, and of great interest. On going inside they would find that the old rood-loft passage was to be opened up, and several squints were also to be opened. On a portion of the walling some vermilion was found, which indicated that the walls were once coloured. The church was now being restored, but he assured the Society that the restoration was being carried out on the strictest conservative principles, and he trusted that no ardent archæologist would have reason to find fault with what was done. The roof, which was lowered about fifty years since, would be raised to its original pitch. But an endeavour would be made to keep to the old lines, and nothing new would be introduced excepting the wood-work. The interior of the church would be filled with open benches.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mr. Buller for his explanation. They were all very anxious that nothing of interest should

be destroyed. There were fears least some radical alteration might be made in the structure.

Mr. BULLER was very pleased to hear that the eyes of the world were upon them.—The interior of the building was then examined, and Mr. Buller described the principal features in connection with it. He said that originally there were two chapels, with an altar in each. He also pointed out the passage to the rood-loft which went right across the church; and the squints which had been discovered during the restoration. The organ gallery, extending across the west end, will come down, and the organ be removed to the south transept. The western entrance will be walled up, and the north and south porches opened for their legitimate use. One of these porches is now used as a vestry, and the font stands in the other. A new vestry will be built, and two additional bells, to make the peal eight, will be placed in the tower.

Mr. GREEN gave some account of the Chantry of the Blessed Mary, and of the Fraternity of St. Katherine. In 1395, 19th Rich. II, one William Baker forfeited certain lands to the King, for having granted or sold them without a license, and disputes arising over this in 1400, an enquiry was conducted at Chard to determine the ownership, when the jury found that a third part belonged to the King, but that the other two-thirds were feed or granted by the King to William Atkyns and Nicholas Norrishe and the Fraternity of the Blessed Mary. Proclamation was made for any who wished to challenge this decision to come forward—when, after a little hesitation, there appeared John Verney, who said the jury were arrayed or impanelled, or packed, as we should say, by Walter Attemore, the under-sheriff, to give a verdict in favour of the King. This challenge was found to be so true that the decision was cancelled, and another jury called—"provided that the said under-sheriff was not to interfere in making it." In 1440, 19th Henry VI, the King of his special grace augmented the chantry, and gave to Robert Straunge and John

Bushell three parts of fourteen burgages, one house, six acres of land, four acres of meadow, and three closes, and 12d. rents from two burgages in the burgh of Chard, value 24s. 1½d., formerly belonging to William Baker, and forfeited. At the dissolution and the enquiry into these chantries, thirty-three such holdings or burgages were returned, including a burgage vocat le George, with six acres, in the tenure of Richard Tucker, the total value of the chantry, £14 9s. 8d., from which the sum of 13s. 4d. was annually distributed to the poor. The Fraternity of St. Katherine owned twelve burgages, or small holdings, and including the rent of the house called our Lady's house in which the chantry stood, was worth £6 2s. 8d. per annum. The whole was sold for £406 3s. 4d., to John Whitehorn and John Bayly, of Charde, the gift to the poor not being considered a charge: in the margin is written—*Rex exonorabit.* The woods growing in and upon the premises would barely suffice to "mayneteyne the hedginge and fensyng parteynyng" to the same, therefore they were not valued. In the *Valor*, p. 163, 27th Hen. VIII, 1535, are mentioned oblations in the Chapels of St. Francis and St. Margaret. In the reign of Edward VI, John and William Marsh received a grant of many very small holdings, including a cottage, "formerly a chapel."

In 1536, March 6th, the Provost, William Raylyns, who was the rector, leased the tithe corn to John Palle of Chard, when the rents of the sundry lots were valued.

			£	s.	d.
The tithe corn of Elder Chard	...	...	3	13	4
" " Tatteworth	...	...	4	13	4
" " South Chard	...	...	3	10	0
" " Kermer Chard	...	...	4	3	4
" " Farthington	...	...	3	10	0
Demesne lands of the town	...	...	2	0	0
Pasture of the parsonage garden	...	...		6	8
			<hr/>		
			£ 22	0	0
			<hr/>		

Reserving to the Provost the chester corn. In 1548 the same leased the grist mill or western mill, called Averham Mill, for sixty years, at £1 16s. 8d.

On this question of tithes, of course disputes arose at Chard as well as in so many other places. In Trinity term, 10th Anne, 1711, Elizabeth Chowne, widow and executrix of Christopher Chowne, deceased, late Vicar of Chard, brought an action against Mary Deane, widow, to discover and recover tithes due in kind. The bill had been filed by the Vicar in 1705; the defendant was owner and occupier of divers pieces of ground—arable, meadow, and pasture—and upon the same kept divers milch cows, which had calves, and produced great quantities of milk; also he kept great numbers of sheep and had great quantities of wool, and many pigs, geese, eggs, and chicken, and other small tithes, titheable. The defendant answered, and duly “discovered” particulars, quantities, qualities, and value, but insisted that a modus was payable, and that the tithe was not payable in kind. The cause was heard at Serjeants’ Inn, when the defendant was ordered to account in kind as prayed.

People in the olden time were perhaps more attached to localities than we are fast becoming. In the Lambeth register is the will of Thomas Dygon, date 1453, in which he desires to be buried in the church at Chard; and again in 1524, John Prowse, by his will, now in the *State Papers Domestic*, directs his body to be buried in Chard church, and bequeaths to the church 6s. 8d., to the altars of St. Mary and St. Katherine 3s. 4d. each, and to the high altar at Chard, for tithes forgotten, 12d.; and for mass for two years, £13 6s. 8d.

Mr. E. B. TYLOR, LL.D., remarked that the bequest for “tithes unpaid” had probably nothing to do with tithes, but would be simply the continuance of, or substitute for, a mortuary custom of the early times, when the deceased’s horse or some other valuable perquisite went to the priest.

Rev. FREDK. BROWN, in his researches through many early

Somerset wills had often met with this bequest for tithes forgotten, and had always been puzzled and unable to account for it. No doubt Mr. Tylor's suggestion solved the difficulty.

The PRESIDENT concurred in this view.

Mr. GREEN was glad to have this explained, and gave a case which seemed to the point. In 1336 died Sir John de Clevedon, and by his will he desired to be buried in the Chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr, in the Church of St. Andrew of Clevedon. He left a cope to the altar of St. Thomas; a pair of vestments and a chalice. To the vicar he left the horse, with all military harness belonging to the same, which should go before his body at the funeral, or twenty marks—at the choice of the vicar; if the latter were chosen, the horse was to revert to the executors. To the Chapel of St. Peter in Clevedon he also left vestments and a chalice.—Mr. Green then drew attention to the mural tablet in the north-east angle of the south transept to the memory of William Bremer, “phisitian,” with his wife and six sons and five daughters, all men and women grown. It was remarkable for the excellent absence of stiff formality in the group, produced by the air of inattention given to one son and one of the daughters.

Quitting the church, the supposed only stone of the original building was inspected, and the party then proceeded to the

Grammar School.

Mr. GREEN said the Head-Master was unfortunately absent that day. The date he saw on the rain-water pipe was 1583, but he could not assent to that date for the house, as it seemed to him much later. He had never been inside it, and so spoke with diffidence, hoping for local help and information. This was not one of the royal early foundations, to correspond with the above date, but was a later private endowment of the time of James I. He would draw attention to a document preserved in the County MSS. at Taunton. It was issued with the sanction of the Portreeve and Burgesses of Chard, being, in accordance with a then custom, an application to the justices

for a brief or license to beg for money to rebuild after a fire. The petition, dated 13th October, 1727,—“ Humbly Showeth that on Fryday the Twenty-fifth day of August last past about eleven of the clock in the forenoon there happened a great and terrible fire which broke out in the dwelling house of your petitioner Fras. Coleman which by reason of the dryness of the season (there having been no raine for some moneths before) did in the space of four houres burn down, consume and utterly destroy the Grammar School, being a large pile of building belonging to the said borough, and also the dwelling houses of your petitioners with their household goods and furniture. The loss being £1400 they pray that some one may be appointed to collect money for their relief.” Some one, he hoped, would tell them where this school stood.

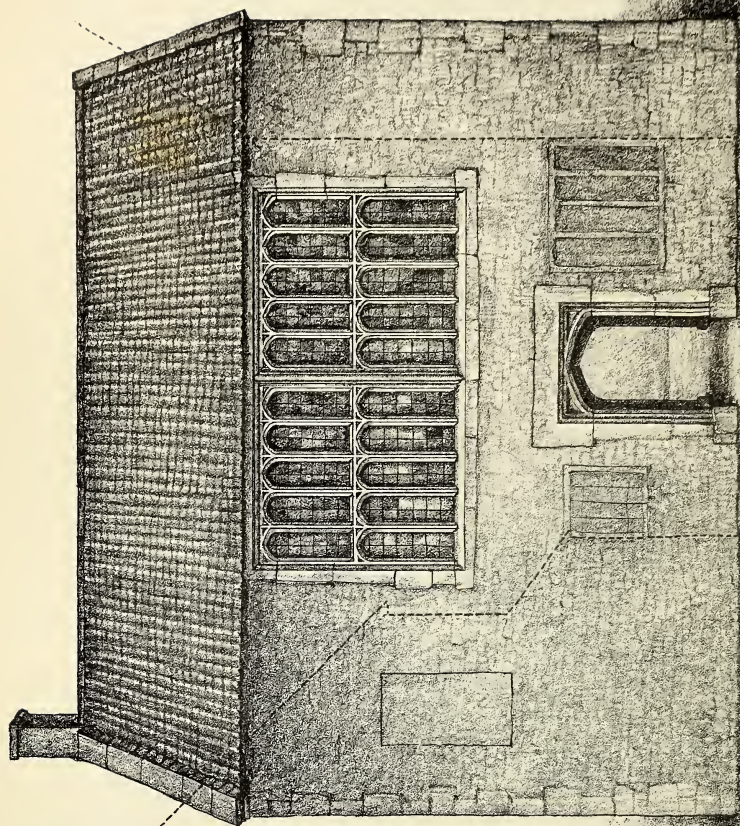
As this question could not then be answered, an advance was made to the Market House, the fine supply of water ever passing though the gas lamp posts, used as conduits, being noticed by the way. Under the Market House were two cannons, bearing a rather curious casting, in circles. It reads:—These two pieces of cannon were presented to Augustine Wheadon of Crimchard, by his faithful servant, Mr. William Burridge, who by his own industry became an eminent merchant of Portsmouth, and was recast (*sic*) by his grandson, George Wheadon. The year of our Lord 1842.”

It will be noticed that it was the donor, the eminent merchant, who was recast, not the cannon.

A few paces higher, and the party halted in front of the house known for trading purposes as

Waterloo House.

Mr. GREEN considered it was of the time of James I. The upper or higher half was older than the lower, and all bore marks of reparation; the date was about 1602. But behind this they had a very interesting building, which he should now name for the first time the



MINOR COURSE HOUSE, CHARD.

Manor Court House.

It had been called the Justice Hall, and also the Bishop's Palace. They would find a very remarkable ceiling, in what was evidently an Elizabethan room of about 1580. Immediately on the left on entering was a representation in plaster of the "Judgment of Solomon;" adjoining it was Justice with a sword; in the centre was another medallion, representing the three men in the fiery furnace; then there was another female figure, reading a book, perhaps the Book of the Law; and then a medallion, representing Daniel in the lions' den. He would draw attention to the lions, the idea of harmlessness was well conveyed. The ceiling at this half was most elaborate, marked out in panels, whose squares or voids were filled in, in high relief, with curious ornamental figures, such as a hare with the wings and body of a bird; or the beak and wings of a bird on the body of a rabbit; then there were dogs heads holding branches; and others were necks of geese, or one neck with three heads, with a leafy branch trailing from mouth to mouth, all used merely for their curves for gracefully filling in. The other half was different, having fruit, flowers, and stars, instead of animals. At this end would be seen the key to the whole. Over the mantel-piece was a phoenix, the badge of Queen Elizabeth. She did not discard the Tudor rose, but in the literature of the time constant allusion was made to the Phoenix, this being Elizabeth, under whom England had shaken off the dust of ages, to rise to the greatest prosperity. Above this was an animal which, he thought, was intended to be a badger or brock in some wild shelter, the crest of the Brook family, landowners in Chard from an early time, and lords of the manor, until it was forfeited by Lord Cobham, by attainder in the time of James I. The Hall was, he considered, the Court House of the manor, in which the lord or his steward sat to receive the customs of the manor, and where disputes were settled and justice dealt to all. Every house in Chard paid

twelve pence per annum, and certain services had to be rendered, and such duties would be performed here.

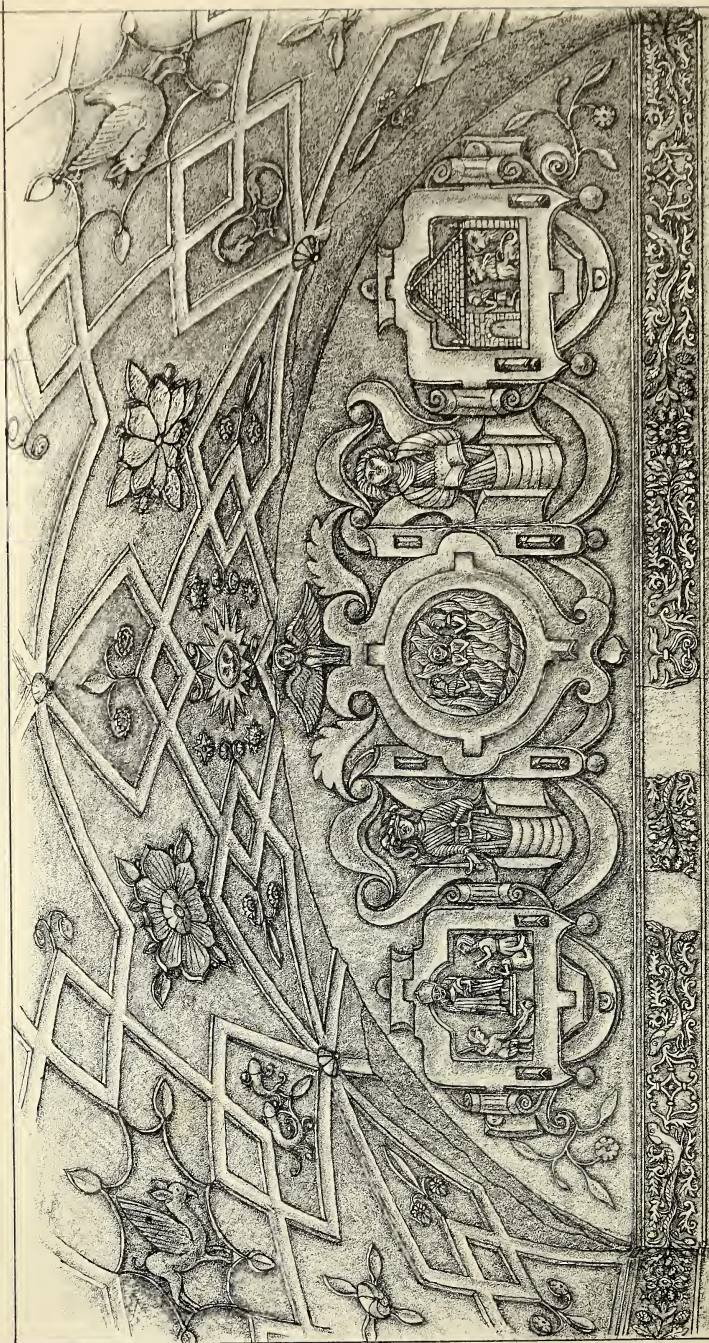
The ceilings of Waterloo House, now so called, facing the street, were of a different character, corresponding to their later date.

The question of who had built or resided in these old places, their habits, their manners and their beliefs, all passed away, must be of local interest, and he would just endeavour to give a clue for others to work the subject out. But no assertion should be made or conclusion arrived at except on proof by absolute facts.

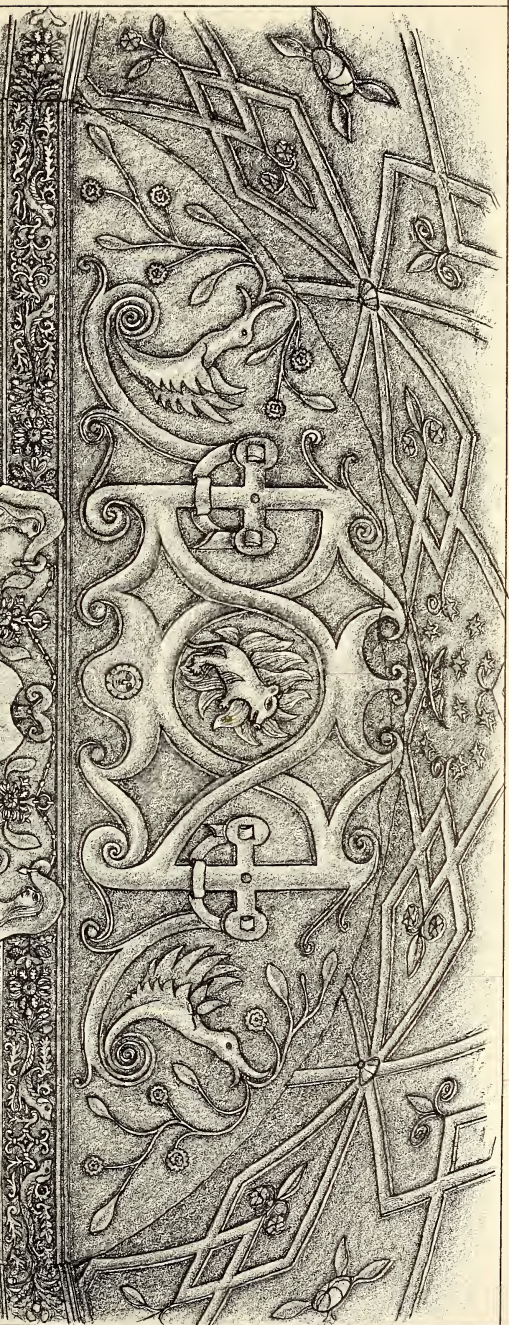
There was in Chard as a prosperous merchant one John Bancroft, in whose house King Charles I twice stayed in 1644. Which house was this? Then Mr. Wm. Symes of Poundisford, merchant, is found in his will of 1597, leaving to his wife "my Manor House in Charde," and to his daughter, the wife of Jasper Pine, "my implements in Filton, Chard." There were others of this family, who intermarried with the Walronds, 1613 and 1624, also merchants of Chard.

There was one family of the name of Cogan—pronounced, he presumed, Coggan, as it is sometimes so written,—clothiers, who were admitted as entitled to bear arms in the Herald's Visitation, and so to the status of gentlemen. There appears to have been several of them, so that, without time, a pedigree is difficult. One had property close by this Hall. In 1547, Richard Cogan left 6s. 8d. to have his name "sett in the Bede roll and to be prayed for." Then appears Thomas Cogan, who died in 1580, leaving sons, Thomas and Philibert. Thomas died without issue, and Philibert died in 1623, aged 60, leaving five daughters. No son is mentioned. A Philibert Cogan was fined, 21st Jas. I, 1623, and pardoned for buying land without a license, and a Philibert died in 1641, whose will was proved 12th April in that year. About this time the wealthy branch apparently ended in a daughter Elizabeth, who married John Helyar of Yately, Hants, second son of Wm. Helyar of





WALL AND CEILING, IN MANOR COURT HOUSE, CHARD. — East End.



3. 83

WALL AND CEILING

West End.



MANOR COURT HOUSE,

CHARD.

Coker. In Yately church is a slab recording that there lyeth John Helyar who died in 1721, second son of Wm. Helyar of Coker, Somerset, by Rachel, coheiress of Sir Hugh Windham of Dorset. He had two wives, the first being Elizabeth, sole heiress of Philibert Cogan of Chard, who died at Chard and was buried there, leaving issue one child Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Windham. It can be seen here how quickly a pedigree becomes mixed. Of course Cogan got into Chancery and had law suits as our ancestors persistently did. In 1590 John Hodie of Langnam in Chard, brought his action against Thomas Cogan, clothier, the dispute being about a small piece of land, a paltry debt of twenty shillings and an obligation for £40.

But whilst the Cogans established to the satisfaction of the Heralds their title to coat armour and the position of gentlemen, others were not so fortunate. The Herald was authorised to peruse, take knowledge and survey, all manner of arms and crests, descents and marriages, and to reprove, control, and make infamous by proclamation all who usurped the title, honor or dignity of esquire or gentleman. At the Visitation held at Chard in 1591 the Heralds found some claims which they disallowed, and proclaimed the parties accordingly, much perhaps to the delight of their neighbours. These were

Wm. Bonner	...	of East Chinnock.
John Jenes	...	of do.
Richd. Fox	...	of Combe St. Michell.
Richd. Rocetur	...	of do.
Giles Chilton	...	of Finsborough.
Robt. Jennings	...	of Corryvall.
Wm. Kingman	...	of Deniett.
Thos. Rawe	...	of Ilton.

whose names would then probably be registered as "ignoble."

Formerly the present open street was blocked by three buildings; the Market House which stood opposite the present one; and the Sessions Hall, which would be also the Town Hall or Shire Hall where Jeffreys held his court, and which

stood at the corner of the street leading to the church, a footway only between it and that side. Immediately above the Shire Hall were the shambles. Until they were all removed, about 1834, the coaches could no more than just pass. It has been stated by Stukeley that there was once a market held on Sunday; very possibly the case as in very early times it was usual. An episode on the question of cattle dealing, or engrossing as it was called, may be mentioned. It must be remembered that buying corn or cattle to sell again was formerly forbidden, all sales were to be made in open market, and no corn could be removed from its own district without special licence. With corn, however, secrecy and cunning often succeeded, and the dearer market got an occasional supply. With cattle the case was different, as any removal must be known, hence the following instance may be recorded as somewhat rare. The interrogatories put were—

1. Do not you know that the defendant is a common buyer of cattle?
2. That he hath kept the same in his pasture grounds for five weeks before he sold them again alive.
3. How many oxen of the aforesaid cattle hath he sold within the five weeks, and for what prices?
4. What other cattle hath he bought?
5. Hath he bought 12 oxen from one Sir John Stradlyn, and to whom were they sold, and at what prices?
6. Did he buy 10 steares or runts or heyfers about Myniard and sell them again within ten days to one Wm. Buridge of Chard, and what price did he get? Declare the truth hereof upon your oath.

Deponent said that ten steers were bought at Myniard and sold the same day to Buridge of Chard. The defendant paid for the ten, £60, and sold them for £63 6s. 8d.

One witness said he knew defendant as a seller of oxen. Oxen were worth £4 to £5 a piece, the steers £3, and the heyfers about 7 nobles a piece.

Another said that the defendant bought of Sir John Stradlyn, Kt., 12 oxen, and sold them within a fortnight at about £5 a piece and sold them for more than he gave, and he sold to deponent 16 oxen and 40 sheep, the oxen at £4 13s. 4d. a piece and the sheep for £20, and this within three weeks after he bought them; that he bought at Myniard 10 steers for £3 a piece and sold them again within ten days at Chard. The result of the enquiry is not found. (Exc. Dep. 21 J i. Hil. No. 15.)

The HON. SEC. having suggested that as time was pressing the visit to the interior of the hall should be postponed until the morning as he hoped there would be no delay in starting presently for the excursion, the Members proceeded to the George Hotel Assembly Room where luncheon had been most kindly provided by the Local Committee.

The PRESIDENT, at the conclusion of the luncheon, thanked the Mayor and the Local Committee for the gracious manner in which the Society had been received.

The MAYOR (Mr. S. Toms) acknowledged the compliment, and assured the company that he only expressed the feeling of the Local Committee who welcomed them with great pleasure and thanked them for their visit.

Much regretting that the Snowdon quarries, so full of geological interest, could not be visited, the company drove in breaks and carriages to

Membury Camp.

The HON. SEC., in describing the camp, said it was an ancient British fortress, from which seven or eight other similar defences could be seen. They were formed when the people of Devonshire were at enmity with those in Dorset, and when the inhabitants of both those districts were enemies of those of Somerset. They had their little wars, and that was one of the fortresses of Dorset, a protection from the people of Devon or Somerset. This camp, it would be observed, had a very Roman appearance as it was somewhat rectangular, but the Roman entrances were always direct, whilst those of

British origin were oblique, guarded on each side, and were made on the opposite or sheltered side from the enemy. An interment had been found, but on exposure the remains crumbled to dust. The spot where it was discovered was not identified. There was a trackway traceable, he believed, from Membury to Whitestaunton and by Buckland to Neroche, the last being once a fortress of the then Devon people.

The PRESIDENT said that those camps appeared to go back to the time when people were unacquainted with the use of iron. Bronze celts had been found in that neighbourhood, and those were the weapons used in cutting down the trees before they were superseded by weapons of iron. In his own parish of Whitestaunton there was just such a camp with a steep escarpment. Those camps were made sufficiently large to hold the cattle. The people were disposed on the hill sides, for in all probability the valleys were full of water, and in the time of trouble they took refuge in the forts. In front of them was the ancient port of Seaton. No doubt it was originally a place where a great deal of trade had been carried on with the Mendip mines. A pig of lead found bore an inscription of the time of Nero—showing that the Romans considered them silver mines, although the lead contained less silver than was usually found.

Some discussion then ensued on the question of silver in lead ore, and as to the way in which it was extracted. It was contended that the Romans were acquainted with the process, although it was said to be a very difficult one.

Within easy distance of the camp,

Membury Church

was next inspected.

The HON. SEC. not having seen it before mentioned a few details as they occurred to him. After drawing attention to the roof of the south aisle, he said there were remains of a very early time. The chancel arch was early 13th century work, as was also the east window, this being three distinct

lancet lights. In a recessed tomb in the north aisle was a recumbent figure representing a lady in the costume of early in the 13th century. Probably the lady and the building of the chancel were in some way connected. The tower was of a very severe type. He then drew attention to the Fry monuments in the south chapel, one representing a lady and gentleman, the lady being dressed in Jacobean and the gentleman in Elizabethan costume. The latter apparently wearing the robe of a Doctor of Oxford.

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the upper portion of this monument, where was represented a curtain drawn back, disclosing a skull or *mort*. In Brittany it was the custom to preserve a father's skull, the *chef* as it was called, and this was visited at certain times.

Some conversation ensued, but it was concluded that this representation had only the ordinary signification, and was not connected with this custom. After some remarks by Mr. Greenfield on the various armorial bearings, and some time had been spent in attempts to read a partially defaced inscription on one memorial,

The Rev. FREDK. BROWN gave a brief outline of the family of Frye, to whom the monuments were erected. They had been there for a great many years, and intermarried into some of the best families in Devonshire. They were a family of importance, and lived at the old house at Yarty. The earliest notice he had found was that of William Frye, who died in 1607. His son died in 1633, and the only peculiarity about him was that in his will he wished that no blacks should be provided for his funeral, which showed "the vanity of this world," and that his body should not be "unbowelled." He had many children, one, Agnes married into the great family of Shurman, of Upottery. She died the first week of her marriage, as recorded in Upottery church. The family from the Reformation was distinctly Protestant, and they had no connection in any way with the old religion. So

much so that William Frye, one of the sons, threw himself heart and soul into the civil war, taking the side of the Parliament. His name appeared as a commissioner. He was the member for Shaftesbury during the Long Parliament, and was one of the Council of State for the trial of Charles I. It was stated that some of the early Fryes were connected by marriage with John O'Gaunt. The last Robert Frye died in 1722, and left a daughter, who married Lord King, ancestor of the present Earl of Lovelace. The tablet on the north side of the chancel was to the memory of Sir Shilston Calmady, who was killed in one of the battles between the Parliamentarians and the Royalists, and which took place in the parish of Membury. The date of his death was 1645.

Mr. J. B. DAVIDSON kindly contributed the following notes, some of the particulars being noticed by Dr. Oliver in the *Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Devon*. Early in the 13th century a chapel stood at Membury, attached to the church of Axminster. A cemetery and a baptistery were added, and the whole was reconsecrated by Bishop Stapeldon on the 22 July, 1316. The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. The chancel, the most ancient part, is separated from the nave by a pointed arch without ornament and has an east window of three lancet-shaped lights, with two small loop-hole lights at the sides, all of which point to the early part of the thirteenth century as the time of building. In the north wall of the chancel is a small and rude piscina.

The north aisle is called St. Catherine's or Brinscombe aisle, the latter being the name of an estate in the parish. Under a low semi-circular arch in this aisle is the recumbent figure of a lady, habited in a long robe, and wearing a veil and wimple, her head rests on a cushion and her hands, uplifted before her breast, hold between them an image of the Virgin and Child. This is a *fac-simile*, though of inferior execution, of a monument in Axminster church, and is probably an effigy

of Lady Alice de Mohun, believed to have been a contributor to the structures of both churches.

The south aisle has been called "Our Lady's ile," and was erected in the 16th century by one of the family of Fry of Yarty. The seat formerly appropriated to the family opens to the chancel by an arch, and is separated from the aisle by a light wooden screen, over the folding doors of which is a coat of arms—Fry and Langton quarterly. On it also is the record that the monument and seats were repaired by Robt. Fry in 1718. The corner of the wall of the church was perforated when this aisle was erected, to enable the occupants of the seat to see the preacher. The tower, handsome but quite plain, is of the fourteenth century.

The inscriptions on the tablets have been already noticed, but there were formerly four hatchments, of which one bore the arms—*argent* a saltire engrailed, between four roses *gules* leafed *vert*, and beneath it:—

In memoriam Dominae Annæ uxoris Johannis Fry de Yearty, Devoniensi armig. quæ unica fuit filia Roberti Naper de Puncknole, Dorcestriensi armig. Obiit 25 die Martii Anno Dom: 1683, ætat 39.

Then followed five lines in Latin, of which the first formed a chronogram:—

CœLVM VXorI pIæ DeVs paraVIIt.

This was a method fancifully adopted to mark the time or date. If the capital letters here are taken and placed in line perpendicularly, beginning with the C, the numbers which they represent then placed opposite each and added together, the total will give the year, viz., 1683.

A walk, rather too long for many to undertake through the dirty way, was made to the

Quakers' Meeting House.

This was found to be a building now used as a barn, but, with other indications, the gallery still remaining within marks its original use. It belonged to Thomas Smith, of

Cloakham, but the exact time of its disuse could not be discovered. From a small manuscript book entitled, "A Register for Marriages, Births and Burials of the Peepell of the Lord Called Quakers Belonging too the Meeteing at Membury and there About," kindly shown by Mr. Reynolds of Bridport, a short history of it can be seen. The first burial was on the 15th of the 5th month (July), 1660; the first birth recorded on the 14th of the 4th month (June) 1662, and the first marriage on the 9th of the 9th month (Nov.), 1662. Couples were "marred" in 1726 and 1733, and a burial is recorded 21st day of 1st month (Jan. N.S.), 1788. The burial ground was also visited, where the following inscription is on one of the stones: "Here lyeth the body of Ann, the wife of Edward Smith of Cloakham, near Axminster, who dy'd the 17th of Oct. 175(5), aged 72 years. She was the mother of two children." Some discussion ensued as to the use of gravestones by the Quakers. In their early days such stones were used, were afterwards disused, to be now again in use, if desired. About equidistant from the meeting house and the burying ground, on the brow of the hill on which the latter was formed, is Lee Hill Farm. The farm house appears to have been used by the Quakers as a temporary residence, whenever the affairs of the community brought the members of the society with some of the leading officials into the neighbourhood. Here the wedding parties met, and the funeral processions were arranged. A large room in the house was used on occasions as a council chamber, another as a refectory, and there were sleeping apartments. In this house is preserved a carved chair, from the Meeting House, bearing the initials T.S. and the date May 19, 1618. This would be some time before the first preaching of George Fox. On the mantel-piece of the kitchen are painted the initials A.S. and the date 1678.

Not attending to the Secretary's call, nor to the programme, some members here deviated from the route laid down for them and thus the whole cavalcade was detained for more

than half an hour, the arrival home being in consequence equally delayed. In future the greatest happiness of the greatest number must be considered, and such stray sheep will be left to their own devices.

A goodly company dined at the George Hotel, well catered for by mine host.

The Evening Meeting,

commenced rather late in the Town Hall, but was largely attended, especially by the inhabitants, many standing the whole evening without movement or sign of restlessness.

The PRESIDENT, on taking the chair, said the papers set down for that evening were one by Mr. Greenfield on the Meriet family, and one by Mr. Green on the Manor of Chard. With the permission of the meeting he would call upon Mr. Green to read his paper.

Mr. GREEN then read his paper, which is printed in Part II.

The PRESIDENT thought they were all very much indebted to Mr. Green for his valuable paper. He would like to ask Mr. Green if in the course of his enquiries he ever came across a word which so far as he knew was absolutely peculiar to Chard. Mr. Tucker had been kind enough to allow him to look at an old document, and in that, a matter of special interest was, that there was a piece of official land called Hayward's Ham. It was a piece of common ground which was given to the constable of the town to pay him for his services. In the document was the expression that the wheat was not to be filled above the chisem wheat. He wished to know if any gentlemen could tell him what chisem wheat was.

No one could explain the meaning of the word.

After the meeting Mr. J. BROWN wrote that chisem was used for grown or sprouted, and was still applied usually to potatoes when in that state. Other correspondents kindly sent similar information, but its meaning as applied to wheat was not cleared up.

Mr. GREEN asked if any gentleman present could inform him where Hall and Waterscombe were.

Mr. MITCHELL, Junr., replied that there was a Walscombe in Cudworth.

Mr. C. E. DAVIS, of Bath, said the Secretary had stated with reference to the old hall that the phœnix was a badge of Elizabeth. The phœnix was the crest of the Seymour family, and it showed that the property at some time or other must have been held by the Seymours. In the course of his paper Mr. Green had informed them that the Seymours actually did hold property in Chard, and he claimed the ceiling of the hall as Jacobean.

Mr. GREEN adhered to his opinion that the phœnix represented Queen Elizabeth, and remarked that the property did not belong to the Seymours at the time the hall was built. He could give many examples of this phœnix in the time of Elizabeth, and it would be so found in Books of Emblems, all kings had a badge or emblem, besides their usual cognizance and crest. In the Bath Field Club *Proceedings*, in a paper on the Queen's visit to Bath, this matter was specially prominent, jewels in the form of a phœnix being the usual present, and the poems of the time were full of the allusion. A badge, special to the individual, was not a crest. The crest of the Seymours was a phœnix issuing from a ducal coronet, which was quite a different thing heraldically from the present representation.

The PRESIDENT said the work of the ceiling appeared to have been done by a band of wandering Italian workmen, who took their designs from ceilings of Rome. They did some work in his house at Whitestaunton, clearly of the same character which would be seen on the following day, and which bore the date of 1577. These wandering artists used to go about decorating the gentlemen's houses in different parts of the county. Of their work other examples were known.

Rev. F. BROWN said that in the neighbourhood of Dunster

there were some plaster works and ceilings similar to that of the old hall, and he agreed with the President that they must have been done by the same band of Italians, who were wandering about the country at that time.

Mr. W. E. SURTEES asked by what name some of the early bishops were mentioned.

Mr. GREEN replied—Bishops of Bath.

Dr. TYLOR, referring to the word “brock” which had been mentioned, said it was a good Saxon word.

Mr. SURTEES said that when he hunted badgers at Winchester he remembered they called them “brocks.”

The HON. SEC. intimated that Mr. Greenfield had gone away and left his paper in his hands. It was practically, closely, and very minutely worked out after his manner, but it would be too long for them to listen to then.

The company then separated.

1400925

Wednesday's Excursion.

The weather was extremely unfavourable, a drenching downpour delayed the start until half-past eleven o'clock. At last getting away, passing by Wadeford, marked first on the programme, the first halt was made at

Combe St. Nicholas Church,

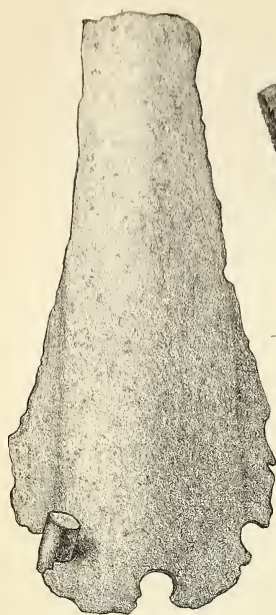
where the Society was received by the Vicar, the Rev. Hans Frederic Hamilton.

Mr. FERREY, the Society's architect, in describing the edifice, said it was very interesting, showing traces of three dates of architecture—the Norman, the 13th century, and the Perpendicular periods. What remained of the Norman period was the jamb of a doorway, now forming part of a pier to the northern nave arcade. There then seemed to have been a thirteenth century church, of which all that remained was part of the west end and the lower part of the tower, in one part of

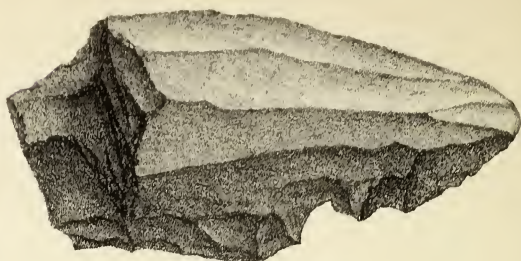
which was a lancet window. There was a piscina of the same period built in the chancel, which was of a very much later date. One remarkable feature was the unusually low narrow tower arch, which he presumed was part of the original building. The rest of the church dated about the middle of the Perpendicular period. Two windows at the west end of the north aisle and another window were not original, but were inserted at the restoration of the church about 30 years ago. There were aisles on both sides of the chancel. There was one peculiarity of the churches here, and that was that the towers were of a remarkably severe type—very different from the churches in the Clevedon district, which were visited last year,—and so the buttresses and tower of this example were very plain. The porches had been restored. On the exterior of the outer archway was what appeared to be a blocked-up niche, and he had no doubt the image of the patron saint had been there. The other porch did not seem to be original, in fact there was evidence of its having been built recently. The roof had the appearance of having been reconstructed at the restoration. Only a portion of the rood-screen remained, but it had evidently been unusually beautiful, and the tracery was exceedingly delicate. The turrets toward the east end were very conspicuous objects in connection with the building.

Mr. HAMILTON explained the details of the restoration, and supplemented Mr. Ferrey's description. He quite agreed in what had been said about the beauty of the screen, but it had been found in such a decayed condition that it was impossible to preserve more than the small portion which they then saw.

The PRESIDENT said he had a piece of it in his house worked up in making a bookcase. He found it in the possession of some labourers, and he asked them where the remainder of it was. They replied that they had burned it, because it was old. The screen was in a very dilapidated condition, but it was very beautiful. There were some pieces of it in the chancel.

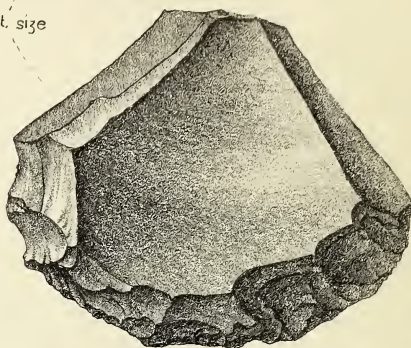


Bronze Dagger.

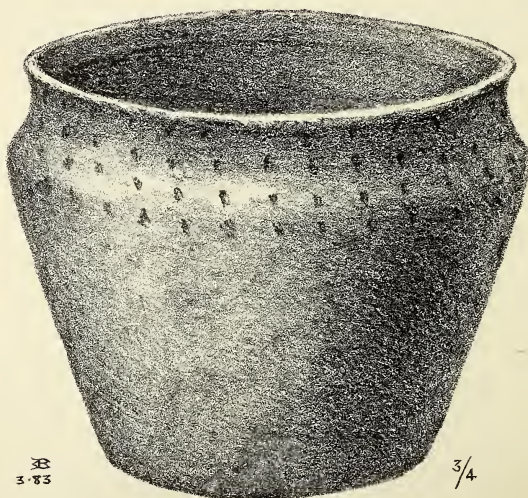


Flint Spear-head

nat. size



Flint Scraper



B
3.83

3/4

Earthen Cup.

FOUND in a BARROW at NORTHAY, near WHITESTAUNTON.

After inspecting a very ancient carved oak settle in an inn near the church, another short drive brought the party to

Northay Barrow,

where some excavations had recently been made.

Standing in the "Barrow Field," where the remains of several *tumuli* have been discovered,

The PRESIDENT explained the position of the barrows and the nature of the works which he had conducted. The existence of these prehistoric sepulchres had long been known, although the ground on some of their sites had been levelled in the operations of agriculture. There was, he said, hardly a barrow in the country that had not been opened or disturbed in our own day by the farmer and the antiquarian, or in older times by the "saltpetre-men" or searchers after treasure. The lords of manors who enjoyed the franchise of treasure-trove had been very active in this way, and it had been said that this was especially the case with the ecclesiastical lords who attached great importance to the privilege of digging for "heathen gold." In ancient times it had been customary for the treasures of the dead warrior to be buried with his ashes and bones, and when Christianity was introduced the custom was replaced by the practice of devoting a share of the dead man's property to pious and charitable purposes. The barrows, of which the company saw the remains before them, belonged to the period called the Bronze Age, when the use of metal implements was first introduced into this country. The "long barrows" of the preceding Neolithic Age were of a totally different character, being long high mounds, sometimes containing vaulted chambers, which seem to have served as tribal burial-places, in which the skeletons are found huddled up in a crouching attitude without any other relics of importance. These earlier tombs however contained in some cases a few leaf-shaped arrow-heads of chipped flint, the bones of beasts and birds which had been eaten at the funeral feasts, and a

few fragments of a rough black hand-made pottery. The graves of the Bronze Age, of which the barrows before them were examples, contained implements of bronze as well as stone weapons of the ancient type, the employment of which must have long been concurrent with the use of bronze, which was a rare and expensive material imported with great trouble from abroad. The barrows before them afforded an example of the class called by Sir Richard Hoare "twin-barrows," of the bowl-shaped form. The two graves closely adjoined each other, but owing to the changes of the surface it was not easy to ascertain whether they had originally been surrounded by one ditch or whether each had its own excavation round the stone-circle at its base. He had commenced the excavations in the barrow nearest to the hedge, of which a part had already been cut off when the road was made between Northay and Betham. Near the surface, in a light dry mould which showed signs of the action of fire, he found a fine bronze dagger-blade of triangular shape, to which were loosely attached the rivets by which the blade had been fixed to its wooden handle. They would have an opportunity of examining this dagger, with the other objects found in the same place, when they reached Whitestaunton. Several of these daggers have been described and figured by Sir Richard Hoare in his great work on *Ancient Wiltshire* and by Dr. Thurnam in his papers on "Ancient British Barrows" in vols. 42 and 43 of the *Archæologia*. The present example has a sharp point and was intended to be used as an ordinary knife; the specimens which are rounded off were probably used for flaying hides or other special purposes. About a foot below the level at which the dagger was found they came upon crumbling remains of sepulchral pottery, which had been almost incorporated with the soil by the action of surface-water. Nearer to the southern side of the barrow, where more of the original substance of the mound remained, they came upon the fragments of urns made of rough red terra-cotta, and soon afterwards obtained a perfect specimen.

This was a large cinerary urn of the barrel-shaped type, rudely decorated with an incised zig-zag pattern, apparently made by the impression of sticks and knotted cords. The urn was inverted and rested on a large tile or tablet of a whiter clay. On its being taken out the material appeared to be quite hard, but after a short time cracked and fell to pieces from contact with the air. It was nearly filled with ashes and pieces of burnt bones, among which were noticed portion of the skull, a jaw-bone, and part of a *femur*. This vessel also contained a small cup which was filled in the same way with bones and ashes, and was made of a somewhat finer pottery uninjured by exposure to the air. Cups of this kind had been variously described as food-vessels and incense-burners, but their real use appeared to be still unknown. Possibly the smaller urn might have contained the bones of an infant buried with its mother. At a considerably lower level the whole floor of the tumulus was covered with a thick deposit of wood-ashes and charcoal, and the bed of rock on which it rested and the flints which had been heaped above were all calcined and discoloured, as if by the action of a furious fire. In one part of the bed there had been a somewhat deeper excavation which was filled with a soft unctuous earth interspersed with bones belonging to bodies which had not been burned. He conjectured that this was the grave of the slaves or captives who had been sacrificed at the funeral obsequies. Near this spot he found a very well made spear-head of chert and a fine implement of black chalk-flint, intended apparently to be used in scraping hides. In the further barrow they discovered a well-marked peristalith or outside ring of stones, with a large rock set up on the eastern side, and on the west a small cist or vault, in which however nothing but a few ashes were discovered. Round the rock on the eastern side had been grouped a great number of the sepulchral urns inverted and standing on square tiles of the lighter clay; but though their form could be easily observed when the ground was cut with

the spade, the pottery itself had been resolved into the soil by the action of the weather.

The Rev. H. H. WINWOOD asked the President if he had searched outside the tumulus. If not it would be advisable for him to do so.

Mr. ELTON agreed and said that if they had had finer weather and more time they would have pursued their excavations further, but he intended to have the work continued at some future time. He informed the Society that the chalk came close up there, which might account for the presence of the flint scraper. He then pointed out the position of the iron-workings on a neighbouring hill, which were commenced by the Romans and were described in Domesday Book.

Keats's Mills, the county boundary, a place of considerable interest to archæologists, was expunged from the programme and the excursionists drove to

Whitestaunton Manor,

the seat of the President of the Society. Here, after a general survey, the Members were entertained at luncheon.

The DEAN OF WELLS then proposed a vote of thanks to the President for the liberality and hospitality he had displayed towards the Members of the Association. He asked them to drink the President's health and happiness, and prosperity to his work.

Mr. ELTON briefly acknowledged the toast.

The party then inspected the Manor House, an old structure partly of the 15th century, but enlarged by the Bretts in the time of Elizabeth, into the "fair stone mansion" often mentioned in the local records of that time.

In the library the PRESIDENT pointed out the piece of Combe screen worked into the cornice of the library shelves. In this room was an oak muniment chest, apparently designed for holding church-plate, in the front panels of which some figures were finely carved. It was found buried in the garden of an adjoining cottage, where it was doubtless deposited in



483

Remains of Roof of Early Manor House,
WHITESTAUNTON.

the time of the Civil War. When discovered the panels still retained traces of gilding and blue and scarlet paint. He also showed a number of palæolithic implements which had been found in the Valley of the Axe. Amongst other interesting objects he drew attention to the short bronze dagger nailed to a bone handle, and to the scraper which had been found near the barrow visited that forenoon. Pieces of Roman slag and ore found upon the hill sides were also shown, and it was mentioned that one of the places in question was known as "Cinder Hill."

The PRESIDENT then called upon the Rev. F. Brown to give some information respecting the Brett family, who owned the Whitestaunton manor before the Elton family took possession of it.

Mr. BROWN's paper will be found printed in Part II.

Mr. C. E. DAVIS, from the lawn, described the manor house, which he said was similar to Clevedon Court. The arrangement of the two houses was almost precisely similar. Part of the building appeared to have been erected in 1493. That was the date given him. He pointed out the parts of the building which, he believed, were of the earlier dates, and remarked that additions had evidently been made in the 16th century. A portion of the frieze in the library agreed almost in every particular with the ceiling in the hall at Chard. It had been done by the same workmen, and it would justify him in saying that the date given on the house—1604—was a very fair date. He mentioned that above the chimney-piece in one of the rooms were the arms of the Protector Somerset, but they did not really belong to the house.

Mr. GREEN said that to describe this house as similar to Clevedon seemed to him inexact, Clevedon already sufficiently noticed, being an early 14th century house, this a rather late 16th century one. The former was but little more than a "Hall," an open-roofed shelter: this was a house of many rooms, the use and intention of the entrance here being quite

distinct, and two centuries or more apart in date. The President had mentioned that remains of an earlier house were still to be seen in a piece of old roofing (as shown in the drawing), but this house, whatever it may have been like, was not before them. There could be no doubt that the frieze or cornice they had seen in the library was done by the same hands as the ceiling in the Hall at Chard; he had never seen it until then, but at a glance this was clear. The President had already told them that the date marked on it was 1577, and this date was entirely in character with the room in which it was. The fact that the date 1604 was on a stone somewhere, only showed that that stone was then placed to mark perhaps reparations, perhaps enlargement. The style of such a house, or of a church, was not to be determined by a date carved on it. After some general remarks on other examples of domestic architecture—apropos of the ceilings, he read an official document from the Plea Rolls of 44 and 45 Elizabeth, 1601–2, recording that Richard Dorchester, of Exeter, then sold to John Peryam, with a piece of ground called the Green for £272, the house in Chard known by the sign of the George, described as being on the north side of the street there that leads from Exeter towards London, between the lands of Lord Cobham on the east side, the land belonging to the Bishopric of Bath and Wells on the north side, the land of Philibert Cogan on the west side, and the said street on the south side,—and all such “seeling” utensils and household implements as of right belonged to him. That these “seeling utensils” had been used often would be certain; but it happened that no ceiling that they would see could be placed any later than about this time.

The PRESIDENT remarking that this question had been traced to a very fine point, then conducted the company to the holy fountain or St. Agnes Well, as it was called, where in the days of the early Britons and Romans the people propitiated the nymphs of the stream. Some Roman remains were

here to be seen with the tessellated pavement of part of a villa; and these were explained by the President. A little stream which passed through it carried down the water to the mills, and when some time previously he engaged the services of several men, they found the mud full of fragments of pottery. He had one piece in the house. From what he could judge the chamber he was then standing on seemed to have been a very rough bath room with pottery walls and stone and pottery floors. He drew attention to two stone pillars which had been found in the débris. On the previous day one of the flues from the hot-air chamber underneath had been discovered, and some curious bricks and slabs of red sandstone.

After some time had been spent in examining these remains, all explanations and assistance being most kindly and thoroughly given—evidently a labour of love,—the Members proceeded to

The Church,

which stands secluded amongst some noble trees near the Manor House.

Mr. FERREY described it as a very good specimen of the Perpendicular style. The font was Norman, and this was the only portion remaining of that period. The building had been restored in recent years, and, he was happy to say, well restored: the Somerset type of roof had been kept up. The western tower was large for the size of the church, and very much of the same description as that of Combe St. Nicholas. The rood screen was a very beautiful example of the Perpendicular period. The chancel arch was a pure and good example of the character peculiar to Somerset, where the panelling was continued from the piers throughout the arch: the roof was of the same type as the nave. On the south side in the window sill, there was a piscina of some interest. There was a chantry chapel containing monuments, he believed, of the Brett family. In the nave were some of the original bench ends, bearing some very curious devices.

Mr. GREEN pointed out on one of these the animal he had at Chard ventured to call a "brock;" and on another what appeared, perhaps, the origin of the Chard borough arms, this however bearing two feathers instead of the nondescript birds. At Wardour Castle (2nd Report on Historical MSS., p. 36) there is a charter relating to Whitestaunton of the year 1333.

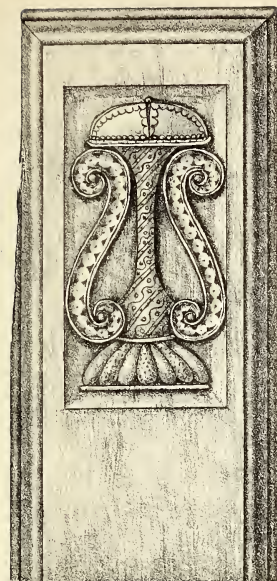
The PRESIDENT drew attention to the very early heraldic tiles now around the communion table, which had been found in the floor of the church under the pulpit.

The Rev. H. A. CARTWRIGHT pointed out that one of these corresponded with one of the bench ends, and was the armorial bearing (fretty) of the Stauntons, one of whom had married a Brett. The other, *three fusils in fesse*, was the armorial of the Montacute family. It had been found on some old tiles at Poyntington, as noticed in our *Proceedings*, vol. 16, p. 72, these being now in our Museum; and similar tiles were mentioned in the *Proceedings of the Institute* at Bristol, 1851.

Owing to the unfavourable weather the programme was altered and Weston farm, an Elizabethan house, where there is another elaborate ceiling, was regretfully omitted. The Roman villa passed in the morning being substituted, the company proceeded to Wadeford where they were received by Mr. J. Brown, who had most kindly opened the ground to expose the remains.

The HON. SEC., who held in his hand a plan of the excavations that had been made, briefly described them, and gave a general idea of what these villas were, remarking that probably they were destroyed by the natives when the Romans departed.

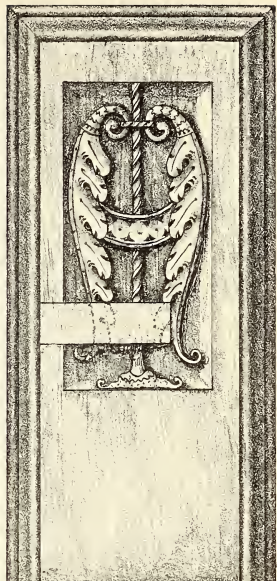
Rev. H. H. WINWOOD thought it was doubtful whether the people destroyed those villas after the Romans left; he considered it probable that they remained there until the new conquerors came in, and that then they were destroyed. There was another matter in which he took a great interest: the



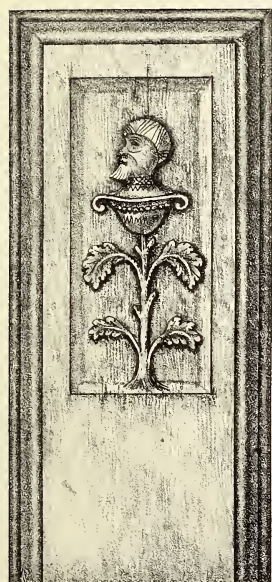
2



1



4



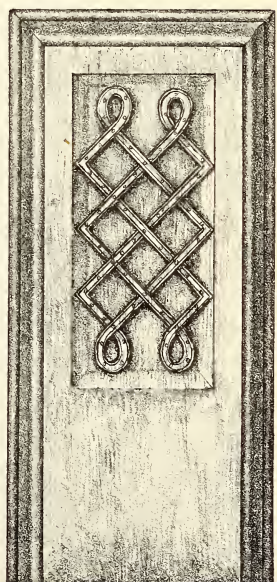
3



6



7



5

BENJAMIN WHITESTON

West, Newman & Co. imp.

W. Bidgood del

Romans were, he thought, good geologists and knew a great deal about the various rocks. It was evident that the tesserae with which the floors of that villa were inlaid were of white lias, and he would like to know where such a stone could be found. An appeal to the natives standing around produced no reply.

The PRESIDENT said he had very little to add. As he explained at Chard on the previous day, the Romans went there to collect minerals. The person who lived here would probably be the local inspector of mines, who would have a country house with a farm behind it, and a large staff of labourers under him. Something was known of the sort of life they led in these parts. When they were not collecting taxes they employed themselves in hunting and field amusements. They hunted for badgers and foxes, and no doubt they would find red deer and perhaps the wild boar. In the villas they did very much as people did now-a-days with respect to amusements. They had their tennis courts, but they were probably not so large as ours; and they played at their various games, of which they were extremely fond.

After thanking Mr. J. Brown for the trouble he had taken in opening the ground, and for his kindness in allowing the Society to inspect these interesting remains, the party safely returned; the sole mishap being the collapse of a wheel on one of the breaks, no harm ensuing.

Evening Meeting.

There was again an ordinary at the George, after which a public meeting was held in the Town Hall. The HON. SEC. intimated that he had received a paper from Mr. J. B. Davidson of Secktor, on the County Boundary; and one from Mr. F. H. Dickinson, on a Charter relating to West Monkton. Both papers will be found printed in Part II.

The PRESIDENT much regretted the absence of Mr. Davidson

as he intended to protest against the destruction of antiquities in the neighbourhood of Otterford, and especially the walling up with strong walls of a very old road on the boundary of the counties of Devon and Somerset, called Land-shore-way, the public right, Mr. Davidson considered, being invaded. He would also have protested against the destruction of the barrows known as Robin Hood's Butts on Brown Down.

Mr. GREEN then read a paper on the History of the Borough of Chard, which will be found in Part II.

The PRESIDENT said he was sure they were all very much indebted to Mr. Green for his paper. There were two or three points in connection with it which struck him very forcibly. One was how very far they had advanced since the time when Chard started in life as a borough. It would shock them very much now to think that the lord of the manor had power to prevent people borrowing on mortgages or selling land. It was precisely the same with gentlemen in another respect, for they had to obtain permission from the King to hunt; even Savaricus himself, to hunt his own hares, had to get a charter of free warren. With reference to pheasants, he knew there was a theory that they had been in England since the Roman times: and certainly the Romans in some parts of Britain had introduced game, such as peacocks, white swans, and fallow deer. The question was of interest, but he doubted whether there were many pheasants in England before the time of Richard II. Mr. Green had upset the theory that "his Blessed Majesty" King Charles I had "taken his dejeuner" at his house at Whitestaunton, for he appeared to have slept at Chard, and to have joined his troops next day at Whitestaunton, as he passed on his way to Honiton. He noticed the mention of Crimchard, and asked for the derivation of the name.

Mr. GREEN said he found it in early times spelt Kynemerchard, later it became Kermer-chard, and so Crimchard. The second was probably the customary pronunciation of the first; and those accustomed to old writing, in which the "er" was

usually contracted, would see how easily the present name could be produced from it.

The PRESIDENT further remarked on the custom of the Court of Pie Powder, as granted in the borough charter. It was from the French—*pied poudre*,—or dusty foot, the mayor holding his court in the market and settling all disputes at once there.

The Rev. FREDK. BROWN then gave an account of some
Star Chamber Proceedings of the time of Q. Elizabeth,
probable date 1568.

The Star Chamber, as some of them were aware, was a Court which existed in the days of Henry VII, but which was certainly in full force in the times of Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth. It was something like the Court of Chancery, but an irresponsible court, where suits might remain for years. It had the power of punishing riots which took place in different parts, which other courts did not appear to have, especially with reference to country gentlemen. He had gone very carefully through a great portion of the proceedings of that Court, which he found in the public Record office in London. Unfortunately the decrees are not extant. He was looking over those proceedings, not for anything specially local, when he came upon the evidence of a great disturbance that took place at the Tithe Barn outside the town of Chard.

The complainant, Humphry Walrond, was of Sea, in the parish of Ilminster, Somerset, Master in the Court of Chancery, who died August 17, 1580, and was buried at Ilminster. The defendant, Sir John Pollard, Kt., was of Ford Abbey, which had been granted by Henry VIII to his father, Sir Richard Pollard, Kt., who was the son of Chief Justice Pollard. Sir John Pollard sold the abbey to Sir Amias Poulett.

The quarrel seems to have arisen from a dispute as to the gathering in of the rectorial tithes of Chard, which Humphry

Walrond claimed as belonging to him, under a grant from William Turnor, Dean of Wells. The bill of complaint is not extant.

In the answers of Hugh Coplestone and Christopher Preston,¹ gentlemen, to the Byll of Complaint of Humphry Walrond, they say,—that the Byll is devised of mere malice, to the intent to put them to chardge and expences, without any good cause or sufficient grounde. To the supposed ryotts, &c., they are not guilty. Thus, they about the 26th of August, rode in companye with Sir John Pollard towards Donyatt Parke, of purpose to hunt, and so of necessitye rode near unto the House of the Complainant being there nexte waye, and not a myle out of the next waye as ys untruelye alledged, but at that tyme neyther was there any ryott or disorder commytted or pretended, for anything these Defendants knewe or sawe, and that Syr John Pollard, on there comynge and returnynge homeward from the said Parke, sent one John Preston, his servante, home before him for the stavyng his hawks; and afterwards Sir John Pollard seyinge R. Staunton and Atkyns fyrst in the highwaye before him, and afterwards to refuse the same highe waye and to run awaye in great haste over hedges from him, he doubted and suspected that they had mett with the said Preston, his Servante, between whom and the said Staunton before that tyme a quarrell had beyn fowght, and thereupon fearing, or at least neys doubting, lest they Staunton and Atkins had don John Preston som bodyly hurte, called after them to staye them, and he himself with Hugh Copplestone and Christopher Preston and others, followed on horseback to the house of Wolmington, named in the Bill of Complaint, where they found Staunton, who, in speche, gave verye prowde wordes of comparison in his Master's behalf to Sir John Pollard. At which tyme, after Sir John Pollard was departed oute of the howse, Hugh Copplestone, being thereof

(1). The Preston Family were of Crickett St. Thomas, their pedigree is recorded in the Somerset Visitation, 1623.

truely informed by others secretly through a wyndowe, sayd unto Staunton, "thy Master's sonnes," (meaning the complainant), "as I understand have said that Syr John Pollard hath never a kynsman or a gentylman that will fyght in his quarrel; yf they have so said, then I will fyght wyth them myself." And the next morninge following, Hugh Copplestone, having occasion to ryde to the house of on Mr. Sydenham, must neds passe by the dore of the said Complainant, so that his said house doth adjoine nere unto the highwaye there, at which place and tyme Hugh Copplestone dyd call and aske for the sonnes of the Complainant, but they not being in sight, he told the lyke tale to the complainant himself, as he, the next day before had sayd to Staunton, and sayd to the complainant, "that yf his sonnes had said, that Sir John Pollard had no gentylmen to his kinsmen that would fight for him in his quarrell, they had said yll, and therefore to prove that contrary, he, Hugh Copplestone sayd, that he durst and wold fight with them himself, yf they would so challendge him," and otherwayse he ment yt not.

In the sayd Byll it most untruely alledged, that Hugh Copplestone sayd in the presence and heringe of Sir John Pollard, unto Staunton, "thy master hath two skabbes² and knaves to his sonnes. I wyll fight with them, and tell them from me and requyre them in my name that they and on more do mette me and two more to morrow at Donyatt, where we will fight with them in manner and form."

The defendants pray then dismissal from the suit.

Leonard Tucker, another defendant, sayth he is not guilty of any ryoth. About the 9th of April, 9th of Elizabeth (1567), he was requested by one Davy Wallis to goe with him to Chard, there to doe his helpe and furtherance for Wallis about the obteyning of a certain sute which Wallis had before Sir Hugh Powlett, Kt., and Humphry Colles, Esq. (who before that had

(2). *Scab*—an ape, a baboon,—used metaphorically for a poor worthless fellow. Halliwell.

appointed them to have been at Charde for that purpose). At the request of D. Wallis, he, Leonard Tucker, accompanied with Thomas Clapp and Symon Sprake, being tow honest grave men of the town of Winsham, with William and John Awood, mentioned in the bill of complaint, went unto Charde, and there by chaunce, without any sett purpose and appointment between them, met with James Daubeny, gentlemen, Henry Daubeny, gentlemen, Christopher Preston, gentleman, William Orchard, and others, being all of them honest gentlemen and yomen, dwelling in or nygh the town of Charde, and thereupon for that the said Sir Hugh Powlett and Mr. Colles came not together at that tyme, as it was thought they would, they, according to the custome of the countrye there, toke occasion to recreat themselves in honest myrth, pastymes and exercises, and so spent the tyme there together, untyl yt was almost 4 or 5 of the clocke in the afternoon, about which time they peaceably and quietly departed, eche of them towards his habitation. And as L. Tucker, George Raymond, and John Awood were goynge together in the waye towards their houses, they mett with too or thre of the servants of the complainant in a strete of the towne of Charde, riding into the same towne, and L. Tucker, with G. Raymond and J. Awood, quietly passed by them, without meaning or offering any manner of disturbance or quarrell, and so L. Tucker toke his way directly homeward without any manner of staye, saving that he went into the house of one Thomas Raymond, dwelling nyghe the town end of Charde, and there dranke a cupp of beere, and so thence departed quietly to his house, not coming near unto the said Parsonage Barne, otherwise than in passing by the same on the Queen's highwaye, and he neither dealt, nor had to do with the said complainant, nor any of his servants, &c.

Whatever the decision in this suit, the quarrel was evidently kept up, and there was in the same Court, the Star Chamber, another suit in Nov. 1570, relative to the same subject, "the

Rectorial Tithes of Charde," only in this case Sir John Pollard is the complainant *versus* Humphry Walrond. The charge brought against Humphry Walrond was, that the said Walrond maliciously minding some further mischief before the harvest tyme, retained into his service one Briggs, a master of defence, and dyvers other ruffians to the number of 20 or more, whom he usually called "his fencers and cuttlers," delighting in nothing more than to se them showe their conning of their weapons to others his servants, with great prayses, untyll the one of them had stricken owt the eye of the other, and taking great pleasure and glory of the wilfull, insolent, and desperate courage and hardyness of his said retinence, and thinking to have encountered with Sir John Pollard, on the 27th of August last, assembled his forces to the number of 12 or 13, and being himself mounted on a moyle with a foot clothe, commanded them to follow him with their weapons, as swords, bucklers, and staves, and some such his servants as he met, having no weapons, he blamed, and commanded them to fetch weapons, which they did so and followed him, until they entered the parke of Donyatt, where Sir John Pollard had been hunting the Monday before, and where Walrond continued for six hours, and being puffed up with the strength of this company, openly and in sundry presences said, "that he would have and take the said tithe," and procured one Hacker of Sea, smithe, to make him a number of pycked staves with long yron pyke in thende, most unfit for harvest, and then forcibly entered into some fields of Charde and took away sundry loads of the tithe, and on March 4th, Walrond procured Richard Staunton and W. Smyth, two of his cuttlers with swords, to enter into the barne, and they did beat and wound Elizabeth Moore and the servants of Sir John Pollard, for which they were indyted at the sessions at Chard, &c.

Humphry Walrond makes a long answer to this complaint.

A commission was issued from the Star Chamber to enquire, &c., but, as above stated, the result is not to be found.

The PRESIDENT said some doubt existed as to the origin of the name—Star Chamber. Some seemed to be of opinion that it was taken from the room where that court sat, the tapestry of which was embellished with stars; but there was a probability that it originated from its being the chamber where mortgages were made, the word “eshtar” being the old word for mortgage. As a lawyer, he had very often read the accounts of the judgments in the Star Chamber, and he was quite of opinion that it was an illegal and tyrannical court. If a man were to go before a judge now and could only say there was a very important decision bearing on the matter in the Star Chamber, there would, he thought, be no necessity for calling upon the counsel on the other side.

Mr. GREEN gave a similar story, which he had found in Star Chamber proceedings, with reference to the Bonner family of Watson, now called Weston, whose house was omitted from the programme of the day. The case was, Wm. Gollope *versus* Bonor.

The petition begins with—“To the Kyng our Sovereigne Lorde your pore subjects Wm. Gollope and Thomasyn Gollope (late Bisse), widow of Robt. Gollope, deceased—that one Wm. Boner of Axminster, John Hill of Wambrook, Richd. Rowswell of Bradford in Somerset, and Tristram Sampford of Membury, were seised of the Manor of Waterleston, *alias* Watson, and in some messuages and lands in Comb St. Nicholas, and being seised by deed, dated 18th May, 5th Henry VIII (1513), leased the same to Robt. Gollope, and Thomasyn, then his wife, and to said Wm., the petitioner, for their lives, and Thomasyn jointly with said William, during her widowhood, if she “over-lived” Robert, her husband. Thomasyn and William “over-lived” Robert, and then held the premises by title of survivorship. But “now of late,” that is to say on 16th July last, one John Bonner of Charde, the younger; Thos. Syms of the same, tucker; John Attkyns, John Barges, and Wm. Sprake, with dyvers other “ryotouse and mysruled”

persons, to the number of eight, whose names were unknown, with force of arms, that is to say, bills, bowes, arrows, swords, and buckelers, and other weapons, invasyve in riotous manner by the procurement of John Boner the elder not only entered the said premises, and expelled and put out your said subjects, but also took divers oxen, kyne, horses, and steres, and impounded them in houses and other unlawful pounds, by the which "dryvyng, chasyng, and impoundynge they break the legges of dyvers of the said cattall, and the residue utterly destroyed, to the perilous example of all such like other offenders, onlesse condyng punysshement be nott provyded." They prayed therefore for a writ for the offenders to appear before the court.

As with other cases, no judgment is on record, but it is a curious picture to imagine these people going out thus armed for the fray, and it is curious also that such cases were not uncommon; our ancestors seem to have resorted to the law as a last resource: the law was the resource of the weak.

In the *Herald's Visitation for Somerset*, 1623, there is much recorded relating to these Bonners, dating from Ed. III. Their arms were, *gules a crescent ermine within an orle of martlets or*, and these will be found on the ceiling of Weston Farm. There were other families of the name in the neighbourhood, as at East Chinnock and South Petherton, and we can see from the will of William Bonner, who died in 1613, that their house ornaments were valued then as we should value them now. He made a special gift of "all the tymber work in the Haule of my house in Shepton Beauchamp, and the glasse of the windowe of the Haule."

Henry Bonner of Waterleston in Combe St. Nicholas, whose will was proved 15th March, 1669, left lands in Sherborne. It was this Henry, probably, who was concerned in a law suit in the Exchequer, Hilary, 19-20 Charles II, the depositions in which were taken at the sign of the George, in Combe St. Nicholas. The question was relating to the pur-

chase of the King's third share in the enclosure or disafforesting of Neroche. Mr. Henry Bonner, with Mr. John Symes of Pounsford, who was one of the commissioners for the sale, so arranged matters that Bonner "got great benefit" by getting possession first, and then reaping the crops. He was succeeded by his eldest son Henry, whose will was proved 26th March, 1719.

The HON. SEC. then announced the proceedings for the next day, and the company separated.

Thursday's Excursion.

Favoured by glorious weather, the Members started in due time. Passing by an ancient-looking road, called the Drift road, the first halt was made at

Leigh House.

The architectural features of the house were explained by Mr. DAVIS. He said he believed the house to have been built in 1611, which was the date on the lead pipe, and that would agree with the appearance of the house. The front is in the shape of the letter E, which people ascribed as being in compliment to Queen Elizabeth, but it was simply to make the house comfortable. There were distinct traces of the windows having been lowered, to make them more comfortable.

Mr. GREEN said the house having the front in the shape of an E showed it was Elizabethan as distinct from the flat surfaces in the reign of James I. As to the date on the spout it had nothing to do with the architecture which was as distinctly Elizabethan as a thing could be and certainly twenty or thirty years before that date.

Mr. DAVIS rejoined that the letter E plan of the front was retained to the time of Queen Anne.

Mr. GREEN replied that it may be so and was so still, but it was not characteristic of Queen Anne style.

The HON. SEC. then suggested that the company would see

all that as a Society they wished to see by stepping into the Hall, as he did not wish to trespass on Col. Henley's privacy ; he thought they would be well gratified, for the house was a very charming example of its class. Col. Henley, however, invited a general inspection, and further kindly conducted the party personally. Thanks being duly returned for this kind courtesy, the carriages were sought, and a short drive brought the party to

Ford Abbey.

Mr. FERREY, speaking on the lawn, said it was a very interesting example of the remains of an abbey of the Cistercian order. It was founded about 1148, and was dedicated to St. Mary. There was another interesting Abbey of the same order in the county of Somerset, the excavations of which had much progressed lately, that of St. Mary, Old Cleeve. The Cistercian monks generally took up a position in valleys, in contradistinction to the Benedictines, who had the sites of their buildings on hills. Whitby Abbey was a good example of the latter ; but that was not always so, as Westminster Abbey was situated almost in a marsh. There were no remains of the church at Ford, which, owing to the peculiarities of the site, stood on the south side of the cloisters instead of the north side. Usually the cloisters were on the sunny side. The only portion of the cloisters which now remained was the north walk. The building now used as a chapel on the east side was formerly the Chapter House, and this differed from the general Chapter Houses of the Cistercians in not being in three aisles. There was a similar exception at St. Mary, Old Cleeve, which had no aisles. Also, in consequence of the cloisters being on the north of the church, there were several deviations from the customary Cistercian rule. The refectory, ordinarily speaking, would be on the south side of the cloisters with its axis at right angles to the church, but it was not always so. To the north of the Chapter House were the very interesting rooms of the dormitory, which was

originally lighted by small windows on each side, the local name for that portion of the building being the Monks' Walk. This was the usual arrangement in Cistercian monasteries, and was still the arrangement abroad, all the dormitories being in one large room. The dormitories were not of the same date as the Chapter House: at the north end were two beautiful windows, almost transitional between the Early English and the Decorated periods. The north walk of the cloisters was a very beautiful example of Perpendicular work. The date was 1498. Speaking of another mediæval order, he might say that there were very few remains of Carthusian monasteries in this country, compared with what there were on the Continent. Almost the only one in England was the celebrated one which he had the pleasure of viewing some years ago, that of Mountgrace, near Northallerton. There the cloisters were of a larger size than they would be in the buildings of other monasteries, because every monk had his own separate dwelling, with his own separate bedroom and sitting-room. Another example of the same sort was at the Certosa near Pavia. Comparing again the plans of the Cistercian buildings with those of the Benedictine, the latter were much grander, as in the early period of the Cistercians their rules were very severe.

Dr. PRING, remarking that as a description of the general architectural details of the Abbey had been undertaken by another, he would confine his remarks to those parts of the fabric with which he was most conversant, and which were the work of Thomas Chard, D.D., Suffragan Bishop, and the last Abbot, a memoir of whom he had published in a somewhat extended form, in 1864. Not only does Ford stand out *facile princeps* amongst the five Cistercian Abbeys of Devon, but we are told by Mr. Brooking Rowe, who has treated ably of each of these religious houses in the *Transactions of the Devonshire Association*, "That no Cistercian building in England, perhaps none in the world, remains in so perfect a state as that of

Ford.”³ In surveying the south front, one of the most striking features is the cloister, or that part which formed the north walk of the cloister—the remaining portions having been destroyed. The fine Perpendicular work here observable is that of the Abbot Chard. It will be seen that the mullions and tracery of the windows are beautifully designed, and that over them is a frieze of stone-work, with shields of various benefactors. The Courtenay’s—quartering Rivers—those of Poulett and the initials T. C. with the episcopal and abbatial insignia of Thomas Chard. To one panel here he directed particular attention, as it was first described and figured by himself, and definitely settles a question which was previously in doubt, viz., whether Thomas Chard, the last Abbot, and Thomas Chard, Suffragan to Bishop Oldham, were two distinct persons or one person uniting in himself the two offices. Anthony a’ Wood, in his *Athenæ Oxonienses*, and Prince, in his *Worthies of Devon*, make mention of two persons, each bearing the name of Thomas Chard, and flourishing in the immediate vicinity of each other; the one a Cistercian, the last Abbot of Ford, the other a Benedictine, Bishop of Solubria and Prior of Montacute, in Somerset. This statement, so far as he was aware, receives no sanction from any other writer, whilst it is as clearly refuted as if expressed in so many words by this panel, which contains within itself all the evidence that could be accumulated in proof of the fact it is manifestly intended to record. The letters T. C., with the abbot’s and bishop’s croziers, will be observed in the small corner shields; whilst in the larger one which occupies the centre, occur the stag’s head and crozier, the name of Tho. Chard entwined round a crozier, and as a crowning feature, the abbot’s cap, surmounted, over all, by the bishop’s mitre. The porch tower was, no doubt, the original entrance. It is richly ornamented with first-rate sculpture, some of it obviously unfinished; the central boss in the vaulting is uncut, and the

(3). *Devon Trans.*, vol. x. p. 376.

blank shield in the centre below the basement window, encircled by a garter, was doubtless intended for the Royal arms. The uncut shield on the sinister side, having the pelican and dolphin for supporters, was for Courtenay. The two small shields cut are charged with a lion rampant for de Redvers, and chequy two bars for Baldwin de Brioniis. Immediately over the arch of the door is a large scroll shield of more modern date, bearing the arms of Prideaux, impaling those of his second wife, Ivery. On the upper part of this, in the centre shield, are the initials T. C., with crozier and mitre, and two smaller shields with the T. C., crozier, and abbot's cap, alternate with the stag's head cabossed (probably the ancient cognizance of the Abbey), and just below the battlement of the tower is the following inscription:—"A'no D'ni millesimo quingesimo vic'mo octa. A D'no factum est Thoma Chard, Abb." In the entrance porch on the west there is a window corresponding to those in the hall, and over it is a frieze of grotesque animals. On minute inspection it will be seen that this part of the building has been shorn of its length. The Royal arms are not in the centre, as they no doubt originally were. They consist of a rose crowned, encircled with a garter, and supported by a dragon and a greyhound, the badges of Henry VII. Although altered, this wing was built by Thos. Chard. At the western end, but hidden by ivy, is the portcullis cut in stone, another of the badges of Henry VII., and on the north or back side are the initials T. C. The hall is really the eastern end of the refectory. It is still a magnificent apartment, 55 feet by 28 feet, with four fine bay windows on the south, and another bay, containing the external entrance. On the north side were five windows corresponding to those on the south, now filled-in to suit the modern buildings behind them. The ceiling is flat, coved at the sides, and there is a modern fireplace, communicating with a stack of Elizabethan chimneys on the outside. It was originally more than double its present length, that is to say, 150 feet.

Mr. GREEN after mentioning the legend attached to the

early days of the Abbey, said that the house was preserved because it was not roofed with lead. Certain Commissioners reported in 1555 that "there was one fodder of lead (19 cwt.) upon the church and no more, for the church was covered with tile," and so with the monastery "newe buylded," there was lead upon some part of it only. There were five bells valued at £38 10s. The whole was granted and valued to Sir Richard Pollard in 1540, was paid for and taken as it stood at the valuation, and was thus preserved.⁴

After the party had listened to the details given them from the grounds they entered the building and inspected the different rooms, guided by Mr. C. E. DAVIS. Mr. Davis gave some particulars regarding the chapel and other parts of the building, drawing attention to the earlier portions.

Some speculative discussion occurred in the drawing room regarding the arms emblazoned in the centre of the ceiling. It was suggested they might be those of Prideaux—Francis and Ivory.

Leaving Ford the next halting-place was

Winsham Church.

Mr. FERREY said that for Somerset it was unusually plain. It was an example of the cruciform plan, like that at Ditchat, which the Society visited a few years ago. The tower was central, of the same type as those of Chewton Mendip, and St. Cuthbert's, Wells. The chancel had been recently restored at the expense of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The screen was a very good one, but it was not in its original place. There had evidently been a door leading up to the central tower, which was now blocked up, and there were the jambs of a blocked up doorway on the western side of the chancel, which must have been the entrance to the rood-loft. The nave ceiling was of the usual local type, with bosses at the intersections of the ribs.

The Book of Martyrs, with remains attached for chaining

(4). Land Revenue Records, bundle 1393, file 132.

it, was noticed, and it was stated that before the alterations the pulpit stood high, the present reading desk being made from the stem it stood on. There was a gallery over the north door, the front occupied by the singers, an organ behind them. The painting, perhaps of the fourteenth century, now on the south wall of the tower, was in the arch over the screen; the arch west contained the Commandments.

The PRESIDENT, read from the Register Books, which were kindly open for inspection, an interesting document called a Solemn Protestation taken “upon the 13th day of February, being the Lord’s Day, anno domini 1641 (*i.e.* 1642), according to the Order of the Honble House of Commons in Parliament by all the Parishioners whose names are subscribed.” This pledged all who signed it “to maintain and defend, with life, power and estate the true Reformed Protestant Religion expressed in the doctrines of the Church of England against all Popery and Popish Innovations within this realm,” and “His Majesty’s Royal person, honour, and estate, as also, the power and privileges of Parliament, the lawful rights and liberties of the subject and every person that makes this Protestation in whatsoever he shall do in the lawful pursuance of the same.” To oppose and seek to bring to punishment all who by plots or conspiracies, &c., “do anything to the contrary of anything in this present Protestation contained.” To do everything to preserve the Union and Peace between the three Kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and neither for hope, fear or other respect to relinquish this Promise, Vow, and Protestation.” To this there is an addition explaining that by the Doctrine of the Church of England is meant only the public doctrine “so far as it is opposite to Popery and Popish Innovations, and that the said words are not to be extended to the maintaining of any form of worship, discipline, or government, nor of any rites or ceremonies of the said Church of England.” The signatures, he considered, were remarkable as containing signs—such as a circle, a

trident, a cross, or flourishes, at the beginning, middle, or end of each surname, which seemed to be the 'family-marks' surviving from an age when writing was little known. He compared with these the 'land-marks' used in Ditmarsh, and in several parts of England, which were cut on bits of wood, in lieu of title-deeds, and referred to the similar marks used for allotting shares of commons in Somerset, as on the Congresbury dole-moors, and in the villages of Cote and Aston, described in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxxiii. p. 275. These signs were, in fact, originally the family signatures of landowners who could not write. (To others they seemed simply the marks of those whose names were signed for them.)

The Members then partook of luncheon in the National School-room, and this being ended a pleasant drive brought the party to

Wayford Church and Manor House.

MR. GREEN, who described the house, said the building at first sight appeared to be Jacobean, but it was just Elizabethan, although part of it might have been built in the time of her successor, James I. The building had been carefully looked after lately by the owner, Lord Bridport, but for some time the drawing-room had been used as a granary. In this room would be found a very pleasing example of the decorated ceiling of this date, and as any one would see entirely differing from the evidently earlier ones at Chard and Whitestaunton. On the mantelpiece was the date 1602, which in this instance fairly marked the date of the house. The porch had an Italian character clearly different, and looked as if it had been built on, or added to the house, but it was really of the same date, and marked a differentiation, which mixing gradually with the mullioned window formed the pronounced Jacobean style; until presently the mullions disappear and the Italian house stands alone. The decoration of ceilings later, became still finer in the lines, and known as the Wedgewood ceiling—a name which will at once convey

to the mind the fine work and very pleasing style familiar on pottery bearing that name. It was in 1602 that Elizabeth died, and as showing the great grief at the time, the following lines from a contemporary MS. poem, in the British Museum, entitled *Britanniæ Lachrymæ*, may be quoted for their pretty sentiment. Sings the poet:—

The Queen was brought by water to Whitehall,
At every stroke the oars did tears let fall,
More clung about the barge :—fish under water
Wept out their eyes of pearle, and swome blind after.
I think the bargemen might, with easier thighs
Have rowed her thither in her peoples eyes,
For howso'er, thus much my thoughts have scanned,
She had come by water, had she come by land.

Mr. HUGH NORRIS pointed out the arms of the Daubeney family on the entrance portal: *gules*, four fusils conjoined in fess, *argent*. The crest: two dragon's wings, addorsed, *sable*, conjoined by a knot, *or*—is in reality the Daubeney *badge*, the ancient family crest being, as represented on the tomb of his grandfather, Sir Giles Daubeney, in South Petherton church, and as may be seen on Lord Daubeney's garter plate in St. George's Chapel, Windsor,—a holly branch, leaved and fruited *proper*. This badge is stated by the family to have been assumed by Lord Daubeney on his being installed a Knight of the Garter in 1487, but it is no where visible on his tomb in Westminster Abbey, or on any other old Daubeney memorial with which we are acquainted. The same device was to be found amongst the heraldic glass recorded by Symonds in his *Diary*, dated 1644, as still existing in the Daubeney Manor House ("King Ina's Palace") at South Petherton. The glory of the family culminated in the person of the great Lord Daubeney, who was one of the most trusted councillors and most valiant commanders of his sovereign Hen. VII., who showered favours, and offices, and emoluments on him. Lord Daubeney died in 1508, leaving his son one of the wealthiest minors in England; but he seems to have im-

poverished himself at an early age by his lavish expenditure at the tournament on the "Field of the Cloth of Gold," and his ruin seems to have been completed by subsequent extravagance at the court of King Henry VII.⁵ At his decease his uncle, James, became heir to all that was left of his princely inheritance. This James resided in the old Manor House of Wayford. He was a man of some importance in his day, for we find that he was Sheriff of Somerset and Dorset in 1488, and one of those country gentlemen in Henry VII.'s time, who were retained as qualified by position and estate to be elected Knights of the Bath. From him is descended a numerous and influential family, which in its various ramifications is spread over a great part of the kingdom, and one of whom this Society has the pleasure of acknowledging as a Member at the present time.

Rev. FREDK. BROWN then gave some further account of the Daubeney Family.

Gyles Daubeney, of Wayford, Esq., who died March 22, 1559, was lineally descended from the ancient family of the Daubeney, of South Petherton. He was great grandson of Sir Gyles, Lord Daubeney, K.G., Chamberlain of the Household. Gyles Daubeney, by his first wife, Elizabeth, sister of Hugh Oldham, Bishop of Exeter, was the ancestor of the Daubeney of Wayford. The present family of the Daubeney descend from the second wife of Gyles Daubeney, a daughter of Coles of Somerset.

Hugh Daubeney of Wayford, was the second son of the above Gyles Daubeney. He married Joan, daughter of Gyles Penny. His will was proved June 20, 1565. He bequeaths money "for the repair of Wayford Church;" and leaves "his Capital Mansion, &c.," to his wife Joan for her life, and to his son Gyles, "all his armour." He had a numerous family. His son, Gyles Daubeney, died before 1638. He married Elizabeth Larder, whose will was proved at Taunton, Oct. 22,

(5). See *History of South Petherton*, by Hugh Norris.

1640. She bequeaths to her second son, Hugh Daubeney, "my great brass crocke, six spitts, and the great andirons in the kitchen, which I found in the house when I was married with my deceased Husband."

Their eldest son, James Daubeney of Wayford, Esq., married Elizabeth Petre, daughter of Otho Petre of Devon (ancestor of Lord Petre), but he died, s.p., 1614, before his father. He was succeeded by his brother, Hugh Daubeney, whose nuncupative will was proved by his relict, Elizabeth Daubeney, May 5, 1662, but I know not whether he left any issue. In the year 1694, Wayford Manor belonged to Hugh Daubeney Gibbs, Esq., who died 1700. A sister of the above James and Hugh Daubeney married a Turberville. Their son, Dr. Daubeney Turberville, was an eminent oculist. He was born 1611 and died 1696, s.p., having married Ann, daughter of Rev. James Ford, who died the same year. There is a long Latin inscription over his tomb in Salisbury Cathedral, ending with these two lines:—

Quanto privamur, cum infra jacet extinctus,

Solus Oculorum Æsculapius.

In the Life of Bishop Seth Ward, by Dr. Walter Pope, the following inscription is said to have been designed by Dr. Pope, but never set up:—

M. S.

"Near this place lies interred the most expert and successful Oculist that ever was, perhaps that ever will be,

Doctor DAWBIGNY TURBERVILLE.

Descended from two families of these names, than which there are few more ancient and noble. During the Civil Wars he bore arms for the King. After the surrender of Exeter, he lived at Wayford and Crookhorn; but those towns not affording convenience to his numerous patients, he removed to London, intending to settle there, but not having his health he left it and lived in Salisbury more than thirty years, doing good to all, and being beloved by all. His great fame caused multi-

tudes to flock to him, not only from all parts of this kingdom, but also from Scotland, Ireland, France, and America. He died April 21st, 1696, in the 85th year of his age, and left his estate betwixt his only sister and niece, at whose expenses this monument was erected."

Mr. W. A. DAUBENY, of Cote, Gloucestershire, also kindly sent a short pedigree, the chief particulars relating to Wayford being as in the above notices.

The PRESIDENT stated that the original Manor House was a smaller building with a thatched roof adjoining the present one.

This being duly examined,

Mr. FERREY described the church, which he said was evidently a 13th century structure. The original lancets remained, but they had been so much plastered over that a casual observer would almost think they were modern windows. Their inner rear arches were in the shape of a trefoil.

Proceeding from Wayford by Rounham and Cheriton Down, the party had to ascend to the table-land called "Windwhistle," notable as commanding one of the most extensive views in the county.

Mr. HUGH NORRIS pointed out that on nearing the brow of this height, about two miles from Crewkerne, there is a conical hill surmounted by a picturesque keeper's lodge. This is "Lerraine," (*Sancta Regina*) or St. Reyne Hill. A mile further on the foss-way joins the road, with which its course is identical for another mile, when it divides, one branch tending south towards Seaton, the other going nearly due west to or by Chard. Near this point of division is "White-down," a space of waste land on the left hand side of the road, close to Lord Bridport's lodge. Four centuries ago, William of Worcester paced this road from west to east.

The name is supposed to be derived from St. Whyte, whose sex, whose very existence has been questioned. Her emblem, as given by Dr. Husenbeth, is "V. M. sevinged at a stake

(Callot).” The present church at Whitechurch Canonorum is the only one in the west of England dedicated to St. White.

Arrived at Cricket Lodge, Lord Bridport graciously received the party. After an inspection of the grounds, the ornaments formerly the possessions of Lord Nelson, were displayed within the house. Lady Yarmouth kindly gave particulars concerning them, and most courteously conducted the visitors through the various rooms, describing the pictures and portraits.

Tea and other refreshments were then found ready on the lawn, and these being partaken of,

The PRESIDENT proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Bridport for his kindness, to which his Lordship responded.

A vote of thanks was also heartily accorded to Mr. Elton for the excellent manner in which he had presided, and his ever ready knowledge in all the discussions.

Mr. ELTON, in responding, expressed the gratification it had afforded him in taking part in the proceedings, remarking in conclusion that “the revels now were ended.”

Mr. E. B. TYLOR, D.C.L., then proposed the Hon. Sec., who briefly responded, and a Meeting, which seemed a gratifying success, came to an end. Chard was duly reached in good time for the trains, and so all got away without annoyance.

Membury.

Further enquiry has shown that the information at page 32 on the public use to which the farm house at Membury was put by the Quakers must not be accepted too implicitly. It is known that a house was leased there with the condition that it should be at the disposal of the community, but there is no proof that Lee Hill House was ever so let. It is a good, substantial farm house, which may have been used from time to time ; but to see in it “a council chamber, refectory,” &c., is a stretch of the imagination rather than a record of a sober fact.

The Local Museum.

Twenty-four Palæolithic Flint Implements from the Drift, valley of the Axe; Greenstone Adze, in stag's horn handle, from a lacustrine deposit at Zurich; Greenstone or Nephrite Weapon, from New Caledonia; Terra-cotta Heads, from figures found at Cyrene, date about 300 B.C.; ancient Chinese Enamels and articles of Jade; Scandinavian Silver Spoons, Bowls, Peasant Jewellery, Wooden Boxes, &c.; Zulu Implements; also some early printed Books, and Engravings by Albert Dürer; by Mr. C. I. ELTON.

Some Palæolithic Flint Implements, from the valley of the Axe; Neolithic Implements, principally from the midland counties; Implements of the Bronze period, from Somerset and elsewhere; and a remarkably fine Dagger of Bronze, with the bands of the scabbard inlaid with silver, found in Dorsetshire; by Mr. POWLESLAND.

Bronze Figures, Enamelled, Jade, and Agate articles, from India; Persian Illuminated Manuscript Books; Chalice and Paten, from a stone coffin in the Palace of Wells, &c.; by Mr. R. STRACHEY.

A Grant from the Bishop of Exeter to the Abbot of Forde, of four pounds per annum, payable out of the Vicarage of Thorncombe, dated 1229; and a Deed relating to Ford Abbey, of the time of Charles I.; by Mr. W. H. EVANS.

Toast and Ale Jug, 1631; by Mr. S. TOMS.

The Borough Charter; by the Corporation.

Some curious and early printed Books, and a collection of Roman and English Coins; by Mr. W. J. TUCKER.

A collection of English Lepidoptera; by Mr. A. V. KYRKE.

A collection of Fossils from the neighbourhood of Chard; by Mr. N. W. SPICER.

An old Painting of Chard, taken about 1750, by Mr. John Terry, a native of Chard, showing the old Town Hall in the centre of the street; also several Prints of old Chard; by Mr. F. MITCHELL.

A large Painting of the town of Chard, in the year 1817; by Mr. JAMES HILL.

The Library.

ADDITIONS SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE LAST VOLUME :

The Archæological Journal.

Journal of the British Archæological Association, Jan., 1855; March, 1857; June, 1861.

Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy.

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

Journal of the Royal Historical and Archæological Association of Ireland, Jan., 1883; Jan., 1858; April, 1875; Oct., 1875.

Sussex Archæological Collections, vols. xxxii. xxxiii.

Montgomeryshire Collections, vol. xv. pts. ii. iii., vol. xvi. pts. i. ii.

Archæologia Cantiana, vol. xiv.

Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society, vol. vi. pts. i. ii.

Proceedings of the Bath Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club, No. 2, and vol. v. pts. i. ii.

Surrey Archæological Collections, vol. viii. pt. ii.

Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Magazine, no. 59.

Transactions of the Watford Natural History Society.

Proceedings of the Geologists' Association, vol. viii. no. 7.

Transactions of the Epping Forest and County of Essex Naturalists' Field Club, pts. iv. v. vi.

Journal of the Derbyshire Archæological and Natural History Society, vol. v.

Annual Report of the Plymouth Institution, vol. viii. pt. i.

Transactions of the Shropshire Archæological and Natural History Society, vols. i. to v.

Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society, vol. vi. pt. i.

Proceedings of the Bristol Naturalists' Society, vol. iv. pt. i.

Report of the Smithsonian Institution, 1880, and List of Foreign Correspondents.

Bulletin of the Essex Institute, Salem, Mass., vol. xiii.; and *Memoir of Benjamin Peirce.*

Proceedings of the Davenport Academy, Iowa, vol. iii. pts. i. ii.

Proceedings of the Society for Psychological Research, pts. ii. iii.

Transactions of the Society for the Promotion of Natural Sciences, Vienna, 1882.

The works of Corelli; 4 vols., by Mr. PEARCE.

Wells Cathedral: its History and Statutes. The Funeral Tent of an Egyptian Queen; by Mr. JNO. MARSHALL.

South Petherton in the Olden Time, by the author, Mr. HUGH NORRIS.

Sermons on several subjects, by Mr. Thos. Steffe, of Taunton; *An Answer to some late Papers entitled the Independent Whig*, by Francis Squire, A.M., Rector of Exford; by Mr. BUTLAND.

Gloucestershire Notes and Queries, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19; by the Rev. B. H. BLACKER.

Proceedings of the Numismatic Society of London, 1837-38; by Dr. CAREY.

Dunster and its Lords; by Mr. LUTTRELL.

Origins of English History; The Tenures of Kent; The Law of Copyholds and Customary Tenures; The Law of Commons and Waste Lands; by the author, Mr. C. I. ELTON.

Free Churches in Chard and the Neighbourhood; Lackington's Memoirs; The Life of Andrew Crosse; by Mr. F. MITCHELL.

The Dying Speeches, etc., of those who Suffered in the West of England under the Lord Chief Justice Jeffreys, 1689; by the Rev. J. J. MOSS.

Quaritch's *General Catalogue*, pts. ii. iii.; by Mr. QUARITCH.

The Rites, Manner, and Customs of Ancient Burials, by Jacob Guthrie, 1615 (Gough's copy); *The Strangers' Guide to the Priory Church of Christchurch*; by Mr. SURTEES.

The Life of Abraham; *The Life of Joseph*; *Biblical Proper Names*; *The Campaign of Rameses II.*; *The Great Discovery of Royal Mummies at Deir-el-Bahari*; by the author, Rev. H. G. TOMKINS.

Turner's *History of the Anglo-Saxons*, 2 vols.; by Mr. P. D. PRANKERD.

An Account of the Incised and Sepulchral Slabs of North-West Somerset; by the author, Mr. R. W. PAUL.

Turner's *Liber Studiorum—a Description and a Catalogue*; by the author, Mr. W. G. RAWLINSON.

The Tourist's Guide to Cornwall and the Scilly Isles; by the author, Mr. W. H. TREGELLAS.

Recollections of Taunton; by the author, Mr. GOLDSWORTHY.

Winscombe Sketches of Rural Life and Scenery amongst the Mendip Hills; by the author, Mr. T. COMPTON.

Retrospections, Social and Archæological, vol. i.; by the author, Mr. C. ROACH SMITH.

Baker's *Chronicle of the Kings of England*; *The Historical Library of Diodorus the Sicilian*; Bacon's *Liber Regis*; *Papers respecting the renewal of the East India Company's Bill*, 1813, from the Library of the Taunton and Somerset Institution; by Mr. SLOPER.

Fables for the Amusement and Instruction of Youth, Taunton, 1789; by Mr. A. MAYNARD.

General Indications which relate to the Laws of the Organic Life, by Daniel Pring, of Bath, 1819; and *The Place-name "Hampton;"* by the author, Dr. J. H. PRING.

On the Cure by Touch, with Notes on some Cases in Somerset; by the author, Mr. E. GREEN.

The Bathes of Bathe's Ayde, in the Reign of Charles II.; by the author, Mr. C. E. DAVIS.

Ellacombe's *History of Bitton*, pt. ii.; by Mr. C. J. SIMMONS.

New Facts relating to the Chatterton Family; by the author, Mr. WM. GEORGE.

The Fair Maid of Taunton; and *The Romance of Coombehurst*; by the author, Miss ALFORD.

Fac-similes of Anglo-Saxon Charters, pt. ii.; by the LORDS OF THE TREASURY.

The Visitation of Devonshire in 1564 (purchased).

The Visitation of Cheshire, 1580; *The Parish Registers of St. Michael, Cornhill, London* (Harleian Society, purchased).

Monograph of the British Phytophagous Hymenoptera, vol. i.; *Monograph of the British Spongidae*, vol. iv. (Ray Society, purchased).

Palæontographical Society's Publication for 1882 (purchased).

Kelly's Directory of Somerset and Bristol, 1883 (purchased).

The Antiquary, vols. i. to vi. (purchased).

The Bibliographer, vols. i. ii. (purchased).

Lackington's Confessions (purchased).

Presented by the Trustees of the British Museum.

Catalogue of Greek and Etruscan Vases in the British Museum, 2 vols.

Catalogue of Additions to Manuscripts in the British Museum, 1841—1881, 6 vols.

Index to Catalogue of Additional Manuscripts, 1854-75.

Catalogue of Spanish Manuscripts in the British Museum, 3 vols.

Photograph of Shakespeare Deed.

List of Books of Reference in the Reading Room of the British Museum.

List of Bibliographies, Classified Catalogues, and Indexes, in the Reading Room of the British Museum.

Prints and Drawings in the British Museum, reproduced in Photo-lithography, pts. i. ii.

Catalogue of Playing and other Cards in the British Museum.

„ „ Early Prints, vol. i., German and Flemish Schools.

„ „ Carnivorous Mammalia.

„ „ Ruminant Mammalia.

Hand-list of Edentate, Thick-skinned, and Ruminant Mammals.

Catalogue of Seals and Whales, and Supplement.

Hand-list of Seals, Morses, Sea Lions, and Sea Bears.

Catalogue of Chiroptera.

„ „ Birds in the British Museum, 6 vols.

„ „ Fishes, 8 vols.

„ „ Reptiles, pts. i. ii.

„ „ Columbrine Snakes.

„ „ Batrachia Salientia.

„ „ Batrachia Gradientia.

Gigantic Land Tortoises.

Catalogue of Hymenopterous Insects, pts. i.—vii.

List of Hymenoptera.

Catalogue of Hemiptera Heteroptera, pts. i—viii.

„ „ Crustacea, pt. i. Leucosiadæ.

„ „ the Specimens of Amphipodous Crustacea.

„ „ Myriapoda, pt. i., Chilopoda.

Guide to the Systematic Distribution of the Mollusca, pt. i.

Catalogue of Entozoa.

„ „ Sea Pens, or Pennatulariidæ.

„ „ Lithophytes or Stony Corals.

„ „ British Birds.

„ „ „ Hymenoptera.

„ „ „ Fossorial Hymenoptera.

„ „ „ Non-Parasitical Worms.

List of British Animals, pt. v., Lepidoptera.

„ „ „ pt. xiii., Nomenclature of Hymenoptera.

„ „ „ pt. xiv., „ „ Neuroptera.

„ „ „ pt. xv., „ „ Diptera.

„ „ Diatomacea.

Presented by the Secretary of State for India.

- Thornton's Gazetteer of India, 4 vols.
Hughes's Gazetteer of the Province of Sind.
Lyall's Gazetteer of Berár.
Markham's Narratives of Journeys to Thibet.
Sewell's Report on the Amarávati Tope.
Mathurá: a District Memoir, by F. Growse.
Memoir on the Ruins of Babylon, by W. B. Selby.
Report on Archæological Remains in Kachh.
Historical Sketches of Phalunpoor and other States.
The Hill Tracts of Chittagong and the Dwellers therein.
Geographical Report of Jessore.
Report on the Garhwal District.
Political History of Jeypore.
Report of the Progress of Arakan under British Rule.
Historical and Statistical Memoir of Zilâ Bulandshahar.
Observations on the Geography of the N.W. Coast of Borneo.
The Panjab Chiefs, by Griffin.
Historical Reports on Rewa Kanta, in Guzerat.
Archæological Survey of Western India, 3 vols., by Burgess.
The Cave Temples of India, by Fergusson and Burgess.
Thornton's History of the British Empire in India, vols. ii.—vi.
History of the Imâms and Seyyids of 'Omân, by G. P. Badger.
Annals of Rural Bengal, by W. W. Hunter.
Report on Ye, Tavoy, and Mergui.
List of Objects of Antiquarian Interest in Bengal.
Index to Acts of the Indian Legislature.
Extracts from Harington's Analysis of the Bengal Regulations.
The Law relating to India and the East India Company.
Manual of the Statistics of Goruckpore.
Report on the Indian Penal Code.
Report of the Thuggee and Dacoitie Department.
Statistics of the Crime of Dacoitie.
Report on the Gold Mines of the Wynaad.
Assay Tables of Indian Gold and Silver Coins.
The Production and Employment of Gold and Silver.

Dickson, on the Fibre Plants of India.

Various Reports on the Cultivation of Cotton ; the Production of Tobacco ; the Chinchona, and other Medicinal Plants ; the Tea Plantations ; Coal Mines ; Forests, &c.

Prices of Grains, Firewood, and Salt.

Suggestions regarding the Forest Administration in Hyderabad.

Preliminary Forest Report of Pegu.

Report on the Brussels Exhibition, 1876.

Handbook to British-Indian Section, Paris Exhibition, 1878.

Report on the River Hooghly.

Report on Railway Telegraphs.

Report on the Vizagapatam and Backergunge Cyclones, 1876.

Results of Astronomical Observations at Madras, 1853-58.

Results of Planetary and Lunar Observations at Madras, 1831-52.

Report on the Total Solar Eclipse of 1875.

Report on the Cartographic Applications of Photography.

Instructions for Topographical Surveying.

Magnetic Survey of the Eastern Archipelago.

Everest's Measurement of the Meridional Arc of India.

Tables of Heights in N.W. Provinces and Bengal.

Various Navigation Instructions.

Meteorological Observations made at Simla, 1841-5.

Magnetical and Meteorological Observations made at Bombay, 1858-64.

*Purchased at the Sale of the Taunton and Somerset Institution
Library.*

Gentleman's Magazine, 1731-1812, 1823-28, 1836-44, 143 vols.

Hollinshed's Chronicles, 6 vols.

Fuller's Worthies of England, 2 vols.

History of the Stewarts.

Reports of the Commissioners concerning Charities, 17 vols.

Reports for a Ship Canal between the English and Bristol Channels, and bill for ditto.

Camden's Britannia by Gough, 4 vols.

The Works of John Locke, 3 vols.

Tooke's Diversions of Purley, 2 vols.

Young's Natural Philosophy, 2 vols.

Cassan's Lives of the Bishops of Winchester, 2 vols.

Prior's Memoirs of E. Burke, 2 vols.

Memoirs of General Count Rapp.

Lord Teignmouth's Life of Sir W. Jones.

Young's Egyptian Antiquities.

Xenophon's Minor Works.

Spelman's Expedition of Cyrus.

Southey's Book of the Church.

Collins's Peerage of England, by Sir Egerton Brydges, 9 vols.

Seyer's Memoirs, Historical and Topographical of Bristol, 2 vols.

Sprigge's England's Recovery, 1647.

Daniel and Trussel's History of England, 1685.

Billingsley's General View of the Agriculture of Somerset.

Toulmin's History of Taunton.

Rutter's Delineations of the North Western Division of the County of Somerset.

The Coppie of a Letter from Sir Thomas Fairfax his Quarters to the Parliament, concerning the great Battell betweene Sir Thomas Fairfax and Goring at Langport on Thursday, the 10. of July, 1645.

A briefe Relation, abstracted out of severall Letters, of a most Hellish, Cruell, and Bloudy Plot against the City of Bristol, 1642.

A Fuller Relation from Bridgewater since the last Fight, wherein is declared the fierce and terrible Storming of the Town, 1645.

A Speech spoken by Sr Thomas Wroth, Knight, in the Honourable House of Commons, upon his delivery of a Petition from the Knights, Gentlemen, and Freeholders of the County of Somerset, 1642.

A true Relation of the Great and Glorious Victory through God's providence obtained by Sir William Waller, Sir Arthur Haslerig, and others of the Parliament forces: against the Marquesse Hartford, Prince Maurice, Sir Ralph Hopton, and others, 1643.

His Majesties Declaration To all his loving subjects, after his victories over the Lord Fairfax in the North, and Sr William Waller in the West, and the taking of Bristol by His Majesties Forces, 1643.

The Copy of a Letter sent from Bristoll: wherein is set down the true Relation of the Great Victory obtained by Sir William Waller, against the Welch Forces, under the command of the L. Herbert, 1643.

An Ordinance of the Lords and Commons Assembled in Parliament, for the Associating the Counties of Wilts, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, and the Cities of Bristol and Exeter, and the

Town and County of Poole, and for the putting of them into a Posture of Defence, 1644.

A True Relation of the Storming Bristoll, and the taking the Town, Castle, Forts, Ordnance, Ammunition, and Arms, by Sir Thomas Fairfax's Army, on Thursday the 11. of this instant Septemb. 1645.

A Perfect Relation of all the Proceedings Betwixt his Excellency Sir Thomas Fairfax and his Highnesse Prince Rupert, about the delivery up of the City, Castle, and all the Forts in and about Bristoll, 1645.

The Proceedings of the Army under the command of Sir Tho. Fairfax, from the first of August to the seventh of the same. Wherein is expressed the apprehending and the dispersing the Clubmen: Together with what hath passed at Sherburne Castle, 1645.

Lieut. Generall Cromwell's Letter to the House of Commons, of all the Particulars of taking the City of Bristoll, and the manner of P. Rupert's marching to Oxford, 1645.

The Western Rebellion, by R. Locke. (? Taunton, 1782.)

The Merciful Assizes: or a Panegyric on the late Lord Jeffrey's Hanging so many in the West, with the Lives, Characters, and Dying Speeches of the many Hundreds that were converted by his Lordship's sentence. Also, an Answer to the Panegyric on the late Lord Jeffreys, 1701.

The History and Life of Admiral Blake, General and Admiral of the Fleets and Naval Forces of England, written by a gentleman bred in his family, 1745.

Neal's History of New England, 2nd vol., 1720.

Toulmin's History of the Protestant Dissenters.

Warner's Excursions from Bath.

Toland's History of the Druids.

Peace Tracts, 1821.

Bucke's Beauties of Nature, 4 vols.

Prophecies of Daniel by Sir J. Newton, Taunton, 1808.

Savage's Librarian, 3 vols.

A Catalogue of the Lords, Knights, and Gentlemen that have compounded for their Estates. Reprinted, Chester, 1733.

Liber Niger Scaccarii, 2 vols.

Catalogue of the Library of the Royal Institution.

Harleian Miscellany, 12 vols.

Blackie's Imperial Gazetteer, 2 vols.

The Museum.

ADDITIONS SINCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE LAST VOLUME :

Two old Deeds with signature of Lord Clarendon, and a collection of Casts of Seals ; by Mr. P. D. PRANKERD.

Cabinet containing Greek, Roman, English, and Foreign Coins and Medals ; by Dr. CAREY.

A bronze torque ; by the Rev. T. LUCK.

A Taunton Bank Post Bill for Five Guineas, 1782, and a Bridgwater Farthing, William Crapp, 1670 ; by Mr. DRAYTON.

Photograph of the Old Door of Taunton Priory ; by Lieut. W. H. M. DANIELL, R.N.

A sculptured stone forming portion of a Cross, found at Charlton Horethorne ; by the Rev. J. F. S. PHABAYN.

A vertebra of a whale, dredged up 20 miles off the Eddystone Lighthouse, Sept. 1882 ; by Mr. G. M. RIDGE.

A specimen of the *Diodon reticulata* ; some polished specimens of Devonian corals from Teignmouth ; by Mrs. PERKINS.

Three flint implements, from the gravel, valley of the Axe ; a Kaffir walking stick ; by Mr. C. I. ELTON.

Three old deeds ; a five pound note of the South Devon Bank ; by Mr. SLOPER.

An old oak table, which formerly belonged to Fielding the novelist, from East Stour Farm, Dorset ; by Mr. MERTHYR GUEST.

A quern found at North Perrott Manor ; by Mr. HOSKINS.

A collection of specimens of animal remains from Kent's Cavern, Torquay ; through Mr. PENGELLY.

Two snakes in spirits ; by Miss NORTH.

A medal of William Wyndham ; by Mr. ROBT. L. LEIGH.

Token of Christopher Samford in Wellington ; by Mr. JEBOULT.

Bronze figure of Hercules found at Carteia, from the collection of the late Taunton and Somerset Institution; plaque, representing Ceres, of Early English pottery; by Mr. SURTEES.

A drum from the battle field of Sedgemoor, and a sword dug up there; by Major TOMLIN.

A medal of the Great Exhibition, 1862; by Mr. A. MAYNARD.

Spurs and hobbles used in Colorado; by Mr. W. C. GOVIER.

Two pieces of statuary in plaster by Summers; by the Executors of the late Mr. FLETCHER of Wells.

Twenty-nine Roman silver coins found at Chew Stoke. (purchased.)

DEPOSITED.

A large painting representing the Last Supper by Mr. F. V. SANDERSON.

Conversazione Meetings.

November 20th, 1882.

“On the Recent Great Discovery of Royal Mummies at Thebes,” by the Rev. H. G. TOMKINS.

December 18th, 1882.

“On the distinctions existing between certain nearly similar species of Birds, with especial reference to those found in Somerset,” by Mr. CECIL SMITH.

“On the Origin of Gilds, with a notice of the Ancient Gild-hall of Taunton,” by Dr. PRING.

January 15th, 1883.

“Notes on a Visit to Greece,” by Mr. E. B. TYLOR,
D.C.L.

February 12th, 1883.

“On the Science of Music,” by Mr. C. H. FOX.

March 12th, 1883.

“On the Cistercian Rule, as illustrated by the Abbey of St. Mary the Virgin, at Cleeve,” by the Rev. A. B. PROLE.

“On the distinctions existing between certain nearly similar species of Birds” (second paper), by Mr. CECIL SMITH.

Proceedings
of the
Somersetshire Archæological and
Natural History Society,
1882, *Part II.*

PAPERS, ETC.

Notes on Part of the County Boundary between
Somerset and Devon.

BY JAMES BRIDGE DAVIDSON, M.A.

THE point at which the county of Somerset touches Devonshire on the extreme north-east is a place called Keats' Mills, a tenement on the eastern bank of the small river Yarty, at a natural ford over the stream, and just below a fork where the two principal branches or feeders of the stream unite. Here the north-eastern angle of Yarcombe parish, in Devon, is met by the three Somerset parishes of Combe St. Nicholas, Buckland St. Mary, and Otterford. Of the two branches, the smaller rises immediately under the south-west angle of Neroche Castle, flowing south through the parish of Buckland. The larger rivulet, coming down from a point in the Blackdown Hills further west, divides Buckland St. Mary from Otterford.

The Yarty river, still flowing south, falls into the Devonshire Axe below Axminster. Its ancient name, *Æarta*, being inflected in the genitive to *Æartan*, gave its name to the valley which the stream has helped to form—*Æartancumb*. This, in Domesday, appears as *Herticome*, was afterwards varied to *Yerticombe*, and is now Yarcombe.

From Keats' Mills the county boundary runs nearly due west over Brown Down, between Otterford on the north and Yarcombe on the south, till it reaches a ford on another river, the Otter, at a point where the south-western angle of Otterford parish, in Somerset, is bounded on the south, south-west, and west by the Devonshire parishes of Yarcombe, Upottery, and Church Stanton. The Otter rises at a very conspicuous spring head, near the road between Otterford Church and Holmen Clavil,¹ and flowing in a southerly and south-westerly course, passes Honiton and falls into the sea at Ottermouth, having given its name to a large number of places. These appear in Domesday as Otrit,² or Otri.

The boundary having touched the Otter follows it to its source. It then strikes north-west, and traversing one of the lower levels of the Blackdowns, crosses a third river called the Culm. This stream first appears within a few yards of Holmen Clavil, and flowing also in a south-westerly direction, but more westerly than the Otter, falls into the Exe above Exeter. This also gives its name to a large family of manors—Culm David, Culmstock, Cullompton, Columb John, etc.

Having crossed this rivulet, the boundary continues its north-west course to a point in the Blackdowns where there is a natural gap in the line of hill, and where the barrier is most easily crossed; hence, where several roads meet, where the parishes of Pitminster and West Buckland in Somerset join Church Stanton and Clayhidon in Devon, and where a gallows (*furca*) once stood, whence its name of Forches Corner.

It is to this portion of the county boundary, from Keats' Mills to Forches Corner, with its three points at each of which four parishes meet, that attention is invited in this paper.

(1). The words "Holmen Clavil" are said to signify a shelf or mantel-piece of holly, and in the public house at Holmen Clavil, the wall above the kitchen fire-place is supported by a beam, said to be of holly, about 8 feet long and 6 inches square, bonded into the walls on either side.

(2). The local pronunciation of Otter in Devon is Auter. The place spelt Fen-Ottery is pronounced Ven autrey.

The first thing that strikes us in observing the line of the boundary is that it cuts off, so to speak, the heads of the three Devon streams—the Yarty, Otter, and Culm, and we wonder why it does this; why it does not here follow the watershed of the hills as it does elsewhere. The reason is probably this. We have the best reasons, short of direct statement, for believing that when the Saxons first invaded this part of the country, the decisive battle in the year 709, in which Ine, King of Wessex, defeated Geraint, King of Dyfnaint (Domnonia), was fought on the crest of these hills. It was only after an obstinate fight, in which one of Ine's ealdormen, Sigbald or Hige bald, was slain, that Geraint and his followers "turned their faces from the English and fled, leaving their arms and spoils to the pursuers."³ Not for half a century or more was any further attempt at conquest made in this direction. A barrier, we may conclude, in the shape of a rampart and foss, was thrown up to mark the new limits of England and Wales for the time being, and as the fortress of Neroche would be sure to fall into the hands of the conquerors, the result would naturally be to force the boundary line down south to the fords over the Yarty, Otter, and Culm, where we find it now lying.

So matters remained for about 50 or 60 years, at the end of which period, in about 760 or 770, Dyfnaint was subdued and colonized by Saxons entering the district most probably along the line of the Devonshire Axe.⁴ By this time the English

(3). Hen. Hunt. *Monumenta Historica Britannica*, 724 B. It should be noted that the Saxon Chronicle says "And in the same year" Sigbald was slain.

(4). Earlier colonies must have preceded the general conquest of Devonshire, if a Saxon thane was really in residence at Crediton, when Winfrith is reputed to have been born there in about A.D. 680. It is worth observing that Winfrith's father is represented by the biographer of Boniface as trying to dissuade the youth from his religious studies and meditations by offering to give him a share or partnership in his property, and to make him his heir (ut temporaneo eum transitoria hereditatis subiungeret lucro et, sese quandoque defuncto, suae terrenae facultatis custodem immo etiam heredem relinqueret; Jaffé, p. 432). Unless this is merely the biographer's rhetoric, it follows that the Saxon thegn felt as secure in the hereditary possession of his property at Crediton, as if he had been resident in Hampshire or Wiltshire.

and Welsh boundary had become so far fixed in the habits of the settlers, that it became adopted as the dividing line between the Sumorsætas and the Defnas, as the new settlers from the Yarty to the Tamar were called. In those parts of the hill country of the Blackdowns, which are still in their wild state, the old dyke, with its ditch always to the north, shewing it to have been a barrier raised by the south against a northern enemy, is still to be observed.⁵

This portion of the line derives importance from the fact that for a time part of it, and subsequently the whole of it, formed the southern limit of the Bishop of Winchester's great manor of Taunton Dean, which here came down to the extremity of the county.

The first benefactor to the Church of Winchester in Somerset, is said to have been Frithogyth, queen of Æthelheard, who succeeded Ine upon his abdication and departure for Rome in 726. This statement is repeatedly made in the Winchester charters, not only in those suspected to be spurious, but, by way of recital, in others which are reputed genuine, and hence may be taken as an established fact. Neither the date, nor the exact locality, nor the extent of Queen Frithogyth's grant, is stated; all that is said is that she gave land (*rus*), or a tract of land (*spacium telluris*) in Taunton, in satisfaction of a vow for having escaped some imminent peril.

Æthelheard, in whose reign this took place, was the brother or kinsman of Æthelburh, the wife of Ine, and Ine, as we know, whilst he did not neglect Winchester,⁶ was a greater benefactor to Glastonbury, and he founded the see of Sherborne. Queen Frithogyth's bounty, however, did not flow in the same channels. In the year 737 she went on a pilgrimage

(5). This dyke, even where least worn down and ruined by neglect, cannot compare in importance with the Wansdyke, or the Bokerly and Vern ditches of Dorset. Seemingly it could never have been used in warfare, and was only meant as a line of demarcation.

(6). He bestowed on Winchester 30 hides at Yaverland and 50 at Brading in Wight.

to Rome, and in the same year Forthere, the second Bishop of Sherborne, made a like journey, probably as her confessor and attendant. But it was to Winchester that her devotional attachment remained constant. In the year of her departure, Æthelheard, at her request, and in fulfilment of the same vow, by a deed to which she and the Bishop were both signatories, is said to have made a further grant of land to the church of the Apostles at Winchester.⁷ The lands were in two localities, neither of them in Somerset. Four manses were granted for the pasturing of cattle at a place called Wiðiglea, which Kemble has identified with Widley, near Havant in Hampshire; and three manses at Cearn, for the manufacture of salt. Cearn has been supposed to be Carhampton, but Mr. F. H. Dickinson has pointed out that it was probably Charmouth, Dorset, and the suggestion is fully borne out by a comparison of the boundaries of Cearn with those of part of Charmouth in a fourteenth-century deed.⁸

This state of things continued for a century and nineteen years. Winchester enjoyed Queen Frithogyth's gift of land, wherever it was, but possessed nothing else that we know of in the vale of Taunton. Meanwhile great changes had taken place. Devonshire, as above observed, had been added to the list of English counties; the Danish invasions were increasing in number and violence; and the consolidating power of Ecgberht had arisen, and was in the hands of his son, Æthelwulf. In the reign of this king came a vast augmentation of the Winton estate in Somerset. Æthelwulf, in his

(7). Kemble, *Codex Diplomaticus*, *MII. (v. 44). The gift is stated to have been confirmed by Æthelstan, two centuries later, in 938; *Ib.* *CCCLXXIV. (ii. 209, iii. 412. Both deeds, however, are marked as questionable, and in 956 and 961 we find successive grants of part of the same lands, namely those at Wiðiglea, to Bishops of Winchester, Ælfwold (Æthelwold), and Cenwulf, as new and original gifts. These latter Kemble admits to be genuine; Nos. MCLXXXVI. (v. 351), and CCCCLXXXVIII. (ii. 375, iii. 457).

(8). Printed in Oliver, *Monasticon*, p. 352. The Abbot of Ford, to whom Charmouth belonged, was minded, in about the year 1319, to turn part of his manor into a borough, but the design was never carried out.

youth, being as the historian⁹ states, of gentle and tractable disposition, had been brought up under the care of an eminent prelate, Alhstan, of Sherborne. Afterwards he was placed by his father under the tutorship of the more famed Swithun at Winchester, and was actually, it is said, a sub-deacon¹⁰ of that church when he was called upon to succeed to the throne. After this it is not surprising that Swithun should have been raised by his former pupil to the bishopric, nor that the King preserved his attachment to the scenes of his early days. His well-known gift of one-tenth of his lands to the church will be remembered. The great cession of Taunton to Winchester is represented as being part of this gift. Copies of two deeds are preserved, both in the year 854. These copies are marked as doubtful,¹¹ but the transaction is authentic, being recited in subsequent documents to which no suspicion attaches. By the former, eight manors at Ruishton and eight at Stoke-at-Orchard,¹² that is, Stoke St. Mary, were conveyed; and by the latter¹³ as many as one hundred and thirty-three manors in Taunton Dean, and ten more at Brendon were conferred, by Æthelwulf, upon the church at Winchester.

(9). Malsbury, *De Pont.* ii. 79.

(10). *Ib.* ii. 75.

(11). It is often difficult to guess the degree of infirmity intended to be noted by Kemble's famous mark. His words are "The charters which are either ascertained forgeries, or which from any cause appear to me liable to suspicion, are marked with an asterisk." (*C. D. i. Intr. p. cxv.*) In this instance, however, we have a clue. The date of the deeds being 854, the indication is given as i., whereas it ought to be ii. (*Saxons in England*, ii. 486). Canon Stubbs declares the Winton cartulary, from which all these deeds are cited, to be "of the lowest possible character"; *Councils*, iii. 368.

(12). *K. C. D.* *MLI. (v. 99). Æthelwulf purports to make this grant and also the text, by the counsel of Bishop Ealhstan, and of his spiritual father (altor) Swithun, Bishop of the Church of Winchester, "ubi nutritus a pueritiâ fueram." He also makes them "tocius regni michi a deo collati decimans rura." They were part, in fact, of that gift of the tenth of the King's lands in Wessex, which has been so often discussed.

(13). *K. C. D.* *MLII. (v. 101); confirmed by Eadred in 947 (*Ib.* MCLVII., v. 307); and again by Eadgar in an undated instrument (*Ib.* DC., iii. 142). To neither of the two latter has exception been taken.

This second grant includes the subject of the former, namely, the land at Ruishton and Stoke.¹⁴

Of the above one hundred and thirty-three manors, which lie as it were in a ring fence, the boundaries are given. The text is Latin, shewing itself to be a translation of an earlier English original. The area thus marked out nearly corresponds to twenty-four modern parishes—Taunton St. Mary, Taunton St. James, Ruishton, Stoke, Orchard Portman, Corfe, Otterford, Anger's Leigh, Trull, Wilton, Bishops Hull, and thirteen more, with which we are not at present concerned, on the north side of the Tone. Pitminster, for the present, was not included. These twenty-four, with the after acquired Pitminster, and the outlying two, Withiel Flory, near Brendon Hill, and Rimpton, towards the east of the county, make up the twenty-seven parishes enumerated by Toulmin.

As Otterford is a border parish, it follows that part of this long Latin boundary is coincident, for a small part of its course, with the county boundary. Leaving the Tone, or Tán as it was then called, at the point where Bath Brook falls into it, the line skirts the eastern side of Stoke St. Mary, Orchard Portman, Corfe, and Otterford. The valley by which it reaches Keats' Mills, being that of the western branch of the Yarty above-mentioned, is called Withycomb. The point at which Devon is first touched is Æartancumb's ford (9).¹⁵ From this point the description is as follows:—

“Hinc per riuuli decursum ad uadum quod Æartancumbes

(14). From this early mention of Ruishton and Stoke St. Mary, we are led to form a conjecture as to the locality of Queen Frithogyth's original grant. Amongst the five “hundreds” of Taunton Dean, was one called Holway, which included portions of the parishes of Ruishton, Taunton St. Mary, Stoke, Wilton, and perhaps others. Holway itself, which gave name to the hundred, is in Taunton St. Mary. See a paper on the Customs of Taunton in the *Proceedings* of 1872, by the Rev. Wm. Arthur Jones (xviii. 82), and Toulmin, p. 46. Probability points to Holway as being the earliest of the possessions of Winchester in this valley. The hill of Holway was probably at that date much more raised above the valley than it is now. All the hills in this vale have been lowered, from the joint effects of denudation and alluvial deposit. Pilgrimages were probably made to a cross, crucifix, or chapel, on Holway Hill.

(15). The figures in brackets, 9 to 14, are stations in the long Latin boundary of the one hundred and thirty-three manors above-mentioned, in the second deed of 854. They will be found marked in Map No. I, below.

ford nominatur; hinc ad latum fossatum; hinc tendit ad occidentalem plagam in aquiloni parte nemoris quod Duddineg bearuðu; hinc a lato quodam fossato ad uadum quod Oteriford nominatur; hinc contra riuulum usque ad caput fontis; hinc ad aquilonalem plagam usque in Wiðigcumb.”

In English:—

Hence by the downflow of the rivulet to the ford called Æartancumbes ford (9);

Hence to the broad ditch (10);

Hence it extends towards the west along the northern part of the wood called Dudding grove (11);

Hence by a certain broad ditch to a ford called Oteriford (12);

Hence up the stream to the spring head (13);

Hence towards the north as far as to Withycomb (14).

After the lapse of more than ten centuries these stations are still recognizable.

Æartancumbes ford (9) is the ford over the Yarty above-mentioned, near Keats' Mills; the broad ditch (10) is the ancient barrier thrown up by the West Welsh, of which we have spoken; the Dudding bearuðu¹⁶ (11), or wood called Dudding, was a grove, perhaps a swine pasture, in Yarcombe, in which there existed centuries later,¹⁷ and probably also in 854, certain rights of common. The second "broad ditch" (12) is a little ravine,¹⁸ formed by a rivulet flowing westward from Brown Down to the Otter, near a tene-ment called Knacker's Knowle. At the point where this

(16). Bearuðu is of singular form. Kemble (C.D. v. 102) prints bearnwu, but it is clearly bearuðu in the original (Cod. Wint. f. 57b). The word appears to be some form of bearu (gen. bearwes), a grove; but, if so, there must be some peculiar qualification attached to the term. Perhaps it was a common wood to which the tenants of the manor had a right to resort for their botes—house-bote, plough-bote, &c., as well as for pannage for swine.

(17). See entries in the *Cartulary of Otterton Priory*, printed by Dr. Oliver, *Mon.*, p. 259a; *Trans. Devon Assoc.* (1880), xii. 464, 473.

(18). Throughout this part of Somerset and the adjoining counties, wherever a layer of green sand caps the hills, the valleys consisting of marl or lias, and a spring rises in the green sand, it always cuts down the soil to a depth wholly out of proportion to the size of the rivulet. These miniature ravines are called either by the English name of "cleaves" (cliffs), or by the French name "goyles" (gueules).

rivulet falls into the Otter is the ford now (*i. e.* in 854) called Oteriford, from which Otterford parish takes its name, and where the four parishes meet as above-mentioned. From this ford the line went up the Otter to its source (13), and then struck northward to another Withycomb, which is in fact the shallow depression in which the Culm river first appears. Here, at a point now marked by the 6th mile distance on the old disused Taunton and Honiton road, the Latin boundary of 854 leaves the county boundary on its way northwards back to the Tán.

Pitminster not having been included in the grant of 854, we have next to consider how and when this important addition was made to the episcopal estate. During the 84 years which elapsed after Æthelwulf's grant, great developments again took place. The bishop's sees of Ramsbury, Wells, and Crediton were founded, and to the Bishop of Wells¹⁹ was booked, or assigned by charter out of the fole land of the district, the parish now known as Bishop's, or West Buckland. At the end of the period, in 938, sixteen hides of land at Pipingmynstre were granted by Æthelstan to a thane named Ælpheah.²⁰ Upon the origin of "Piping" we forbear to speculate; the "minster" shows that at the spot where the church now stands, there existed a residence for one or more secular priests, who from that point, as a centre, went about visiting the sick and doing duty, from time to time, at the neighbouring crosses and chapels. The grant was confirmed, three years later, in 941, by Eadmund the Elder, to the same grantee.²¹ The boundaries in these two grants are identical, and as Pitminster is also a border parish, it follows that a portion of this line also is coincident with that of the county. A third grant of Pipmynstre, this time to the apostles, Peter and Paul, in other words, to the old monastery, at Winchester, by Eadweard the Confessor, occurs in 1044.²² Now, at any

(19). Three bishops occupied the See before 938—Æthelm, Wulfhelm, and Ælpheah.

(20). K. C. D., MCXVII., v. 231.

(21). K. C. D., MCXL., v. 271.

(22). K. C. D., DCCLXXIV., iv. 88.

rate, if not before,²³ this extensive and fertile tract of country was finally secured. The quantity of land granted by King Eadweard was not sixteen, as before, but only fifteen hides. According to the boundaries, however, the area was the same in 1044 as in 938 and 941. This leads to the idea that on the occasion of Æthelred's assessment for the Danegelt, the hidage was reduced. At Domesday it was fifteen hides.

The two sets of boundaries are made from independent surveys, but correspond very fairly. The older one begins at a point just above Burnworthy, to the east of Forches Corner, and goes, first westward, then northward, eastward, southward, and again westward, all round the parish. The later one begins at Forches Corner itself, and follows the same course. The stations upon and near the county boundary may be thus compared:—

Boundary of 938 and 941.

Along Withyslade to Henna thorne (20);²⁴

Thence west along the old dike (21); then some while along the dike (22);

Then north over Withycomb (23); then east to Fearrescumb's head (24)(1); from Fearrescumb's head west along the highway till it reaches the eastern oak woods (2);

Then north along the right of the western oak woods to the Bishop's boundary on Bennancumb (3).

Boundary of 1044.

From Piples barrow to Withycomb's head (20);

From Withycomb's head west straight on to the red ditch (21);

From the red ditch north straight on to the eastern oak woods (22);

From the oak woods west along the highway to the hoar apple tree (23); from the apple tree back to Binnacumb's brook (24).

(23). According to one tradition, Queen Emma Ælfifu (Ann. Winton, *New Monasticon*, i. 206), according to another her son, Harthacnut (Leland, Coll. i. 614), was the first to bestow Pippeminstre along with Westwood, Wilts, upon the church at Winchester; the explanation given in the Ann. Winton being that the Queen made the grant out of her morning-gift, and that her son confirmed it in perpetuity. Queen Emma Ælfifu was one of the signatories to Eadweard's charter of 1044. The spelling of Pitminster in Domesday, namely, Pinpeministra, seems to shew that the old pronunciation, "Pipingminster," was preserved to that date.

(24). These figures in brackets will be found in Map No. II, below.

Pipplesbarrow (otherwise in the same document called Piddlesbarrow), is a barrow which stood on a hill, once called Ringwold's Hill, at the head of the rivulet which flows down past Pitminster church. Withycomb, or Withyslade, is the source of the Culm River, already adverted to. Fearrescomb's Head is the point from which the water runs to Strawbridge's Farm. The eastern oak woods seem to have been south-east, the western oak woods north-east, of Forches Corner. Bennan or Binnacumb's Brook, is the rivulet, of which two branches, each bearing the same name, bounded Pitminster and Anger's Leigh respectively, on the west; and the Bishop's boundaries are the boundaries of West Buckland.

Three centuries after the Conquest, the subject again comes into prominence, in the shape of a patent of the 9th year of King Richard II (4th Feb., 1386), reciting an earlier patent of King Edward III (1st July, 1367), nineteen years before. At the date of this earlier patent, in 1367, William of Wykeham had been elected Bishop of Winchester, and appointed Lord High Chancellor. Shortly after the same date he was confirmed as Chancellor, and consecrated as Bishop. He was still Bishop in 1386, at the date of the later patent.

This latter instrument, King Richard's patent, is an exemplification, at the request of the Bishop of Winchester, of the "record and process" (a technical term, which we will hereafter call "the record") of a perambulation of the boundary between Taunton, in the county of Somerset, and Churchstanton (there called Cheristanton), in the county of Devon, already made in 1368, as a result of the patent of Edward, dated 1367. The use of the name "Tanton" in this document is very remarkable. No mention is made either of Otterford or of Pitminster: the two parishes (both of which at this period belonged to Winchester) are merged in the one general designation of "Tanton."

The patent of Richard sets out the record of the former patent in full. That earlier patent of Edward was addressed to

nine persons: the Abbot of Glastonbury, Hugh de Courtenay, Earl of Devon, William of Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, Guy de Briene, William of Wychyngham, John Delues, William of Botreaux, John of Wylyngton, and Edmund of Chelreye. The patent of Edward states that various dissensions and disputes had arisen between the men of the two counties, about lands and tenements in the neighbourhood of the boundary—the metes and bounds having in several places disappeared, and that great evils and grievances had thereby arisen, and were likely to arise in future. In order to avoid such evils, and to restore peace and tranquillity, the King had appointed the above nine persons, and any eight, seven, six, five, four, or three of them, to be justiciars, to make a perambulation from the parish of Buckland St. Mary to the parish of Buckland Bishop, and to fix metes and bounds, and do all other things necessary and expedient in the matter. It states, moreover, that the King had directed the sheriffs of either county to make proclamation, desiring all persons concerned to meet the justiciars on a certain day at a given place, and to summon before them a number of men, either of civil or military rank, by whose assistance the perambulation might be better made, and the truth of the matter ascertained.

The record then sets out the precept, founded on the patent, addressed to the Sheriff of Somerset, requiring him to summon before the justiciars at Buckland St. Mary, on the 7th of August, 1367, twenty-four persons of the view of Buckland St. Mary, Bishop's Buckland, and Taunton, for the purposes above mentioned; and a similar precept to the Sheriff of Devon, requiring him to summon before the justiciars at Yarcombe, on the same 7th of August, 1367, twenty-four persons of the view of Yarcombe, Hidon, and Churchstanton, for the like purposes.

It then states the returns made by the sheriffs to the precepts. The writ to the Sheriff of Somerset is set out in full, and then the record goes on to state that John Langelond,

Sheriff of Somerset, had made return that he had made proclamation in the towns of Bridgwater, Taunton, Wellington, Milverton, Wiveliscombe, Wells, Ashill, Ilminster, Chard, and other places; and, moreover, had returned a panel of jurors. Then follows the writ in similar terms, addressed to the Sheriff of Devon, and then the return of Richard Brenkescombe as such sheriff, stating that he had made proclamation in Exeter, Barnstaple, Crediton, Totnes, and other places, and, moreover, had returned a panel.

The record next states that the justiciars themselves had made proclamation, calling upon all persons whom it might concern, to attend and give evidence.

Lastly, it sets forth the perambulation itself, made in the presence of the communities of Buckland St. Mary, Buckland Bishop, Taunton, and the adjoining villages in Somerset, and of Yarcombe, Hidon, Churchstanton, and other villages in Devon; and upon the oath of twelve men of the county of Somerset, and twelve of Devon. The Somerset jurors were, Sir Richard de Acton, Knight; Sir John Raleigh, Sir Hugh Durburgh, Sir John Beauchamp, Sir Edmund Cheyne, Sir Edward de Clyuedon, Matthew de Clyuedon, John de la Mare, Walter Guphegh, John Panes, William Forde, and Henry Forde. The Devonshire jurors were, Sir John Ferers, Sir Walter Bluet, Sir John Fitz-Payn, Sir Robert Cornu, John Dabernon, Richard Chuselden, John Waskham, William Stile, James Vautord, William Luscote, John Speke of Braunford, and Richard Beaumond.

These jurors said that the metes and bounds between the said counties of Somerset and Devon, from Buckland St. Mary towards the east, and so descending to Buckland Bishop, towards the west, begin at Yertyngbregge (Yarty Bridge), between Buckland St. Mary and Yarcombe, and are as follows.

Then follows a series of stations, which may be reckoned as thirty-five in number (as marked in Map No. I):—

At the

- (1) Channel of the stream below Yertyngebrygge,
Along a ditch towards the west, straight to
- (2) Well, lately filled up with stones ;
So ascending by the said ditch straight to a
- (3) Small fountain, freely gushing (having rocks on the
northern side of the water) ;
So ascending towards the west to the
- (4) Mere weye ;
Thence straight between a certain oak and a holly
bush, as far as to a
- (5) Dry oak at the eastern head of the mere ;
By the middle of the mere to a
- (6) Well, newly made, on the south side of Brodok ;
Thence to a
- (7) Well, newly made, on the south side of Grosweye ;
So ascending straight to the
- (8) Head of Grosweye, in the Wodeslade at Landshore-
weyesend ;
So ascending on the south side of Landshoreweye,
as far as to the
- (9) Head of a lane ;
So by the middle of the same lane, to the
- (10) South side of Putland (where the road branches into two,
and where a landmark has been made in the shape of
a well) ;
Thence ascending straight to the west, by Lanse-
horesweye, as far as to
- (11) Crosweyheued ;
Thence as the ditch proceeds by Lansehoresweye
to
- (12) Narwecombe ;
Thence by the same ditch and Lansehoresweye,
towards the west, straight to the
- (13) Land of John de Beauchamp, called Mountery ;

Thence descending as the path of the Lansehoreweye leads, as far as to

- (14) Suthchurchampford ;

Thence ascending towards the north by the ancient watercourse on the

- (15) South side of Otriford mill ;

Thence by the water-course called Oldestrem, towards the west, as far as to

- (16) Wykepol ;

Thence ascending towards the north, by Ewilm-lake, to the spring called

- (17) Ewilme ;

Thence to a

- (18) Corner of a croft of the Prior of Taunton ;

Thence by the middle of the way, beside the ditch of the croft which leads to

- (19) Payneshurne, towards the north ;

Thence descending by the Saltresweye to the

- (20) Whiteweye ;

Thence turning back towards the west, as far as to

- (21) Yealdeede, above Saltere-well (according as the metes and bounds are there made) ;

Thence crossing by the Lynch, as far as to a

- (22) Well, called Frenshelonse (in which there lies a certain rock) ;

Thence by the Lynch, towards the west, as far as to the

- (23) Whiteston, above Teneaker, beside Rixwell ;

Thence decending beyond the moor, towards the north, straight to the

- (24) Corner of Teneaker ;

So by the ditch between Teneaker and Mountekynsemede, as far as to the water of

- (25) Colm ;

So by the said water of Colm, as far as to

(26) Baggeberes lane ;

By the said lane, ascending towards the north, as far as to the tenement of

(27) Baggebere ;

So by the gates of the court of the same tenement, to the lake below Ishangre, called

(28) Seggewellelake ;

Thence ascending by the water-course of the same lake to a certain

(29) White thorne, growing in the wall of a croft, called Smalecombesleye ;

Ascending by the wall of the same croft, as far as to

(30) Coggesdych (at the corner of the same croft) ;

Thence across the heath, as far as to

(31) Horspole (as the metes have been there made) ;

Thence as far as to the

(32) Horston ;

Thence ascending towards the south, as far as to a

(33) Ditch near Kebarehurne ;

Thence by the same ditch, as far as to

(34) Salterneweye ;

Thence out by the same way, as far as to

(35) Merdela (which is the boundary between the aforesaid counties, from the aforesaid village of Bishop's Boklond, in the county of Somerset, as far as to the village of Hydon, in the aforesaid county of Devon).

Of these thirty-five stations, the greater number may be easily identified.

In the year 1368, the actual county boundary crossed the Yarty at a ford a few yards below the then Yarty Bridge. Keats' Mill, or the building which now occupies the site of the old grist mill of that name, stands on the north-east side of the modern bridge, and is an outlying portion of Yarcombe parish, in the county of Devon. This ford is station No. 1. Thence the line strikes west, up the hill. Here it forms the

southern boundary of Bishop's Wood, now a hamlet; which, as its name indicates, once belonged to the Bishop of Winchester.

Passing over six stations, No. 8 appears as the "Head of Grosway," in the wood-slade at Landshore-way. This is the first mention of Landshore-way, a lane which skirts the boundary, and was probably in existence when the boundary was first fixed. This lane still partially exists; its name is perfectly familiar to the people at Bishop's Wood; but a great portion of it has within living memory been appropriated, and the land thrown into the adjoining closes in Otterford parish. So difficult was it to prevent people from exercising their accustomed rights, that it was found necessary to erect *stone walls* across the old gateways in the lane. This, however, has been done, and the public are now effectually excluded.

Station No. 10, the south side of Putland, is taken to be a point where a foot-path from the north joins the Landshore-way, near the modern Pitlands. Still "the way" is followed westward to Crossway Head, where another road comes in from the south-west. Here the Landshore-way is diverted to the north-west, and its ancient track occupied by a fir plantation, evidently an old enclosure. No. 12, Narrowcombe, is a point on Brown Down, where a spring, rising a little to the north of the boundary, and flowing south, begins to form one of those depressions in the green sand soil, which lower south deepens into a steep and narrow valley, between Watchford and Stout Mill. At 13 the line enters or skirts the land of John de Beauchamp, called Mountery. This land must have been either in Otterford or in Yarcombe. Bearing in mind that Otterford at this date was wholly within the manor of Taunton, and vested in Winchester, and that the whole of Yarcombe (as far as we know) belonged to the Prior of Otterton,²⁵ as the land steward in this country of the Abbot of

(25). Or possibly to the Prior of St. Michael's Mount, Cornwall. See *Hundred Roll*, p. 93 b.

St. Michael's, Normandy, we are at a loss to conjecture what land this of Mountery was, or how it became the property of John de Beauchamp. Possibly he held it as tenant only, under one of the above ecclesiastical lords.

No. 14, Southchurchamford, is an important name. Churchingford, a corruption of the ancient "cyrican ford"—ford of the "cyrice," is now a hamlet in Church Stanton parish, Devon, about three-quarters of a mile off, towards the west. At this hamlet three roads intersect, forming six cross roads, at a point where, to all appearance, a highway cross once stood; of which, however, if it existed, no trace remains. The difficulty is, why should this hamlet have been called a ford? The only answer seems to be that as two of the six roads above mentioned lead down to and cross the Otter—one at some distance northwards, the other branching into two lanes at two separate fords southwards—it was from these two latter fords that the hamlet was named. From this patent we learn that in 1368 the lower of the two was called Southchurchamford; and this lower ford is the Oteriford of 854, from which the parish was named, as above mentioned.

From this ford the next few stations are easily recognisable. No. 15, Otterford Mill, is to be found at the upper of the two Churchingfords. No. 16, Wykepol—Wickpool, still survives as Wick; and so we are led up to No. 17, the ewelm or fountain-head of the Otter.

From the ewelm, the line goes to No. 18, the corner of a croft of the Prior of Taunton. This croft still remains; it is now called Yelham—where we can scarcely err in tracing the root, Ewelham; and the boundary still runs by the corner of the garden. No. 19, Payneshurne, or Payne's Corner, is not so readily ascertained, but the Salters' Way remains in the form of a lane; and following this, the boundary comes out to the modern high-road at No. 20, Whiteway.²⁶ Here it turns

(26). The modern boundary at this point differs from that of 1368. Then it struck Whiteway a few yards north of Whitewall Corner; now it is brought straight to the Corner itself.

back westward, or rather south-westward, for a few paces, and arrives at No. 21, Yeoldeed—Old Head, now called Whitewall Corner, where metes and bounds were formerly set up.

The next three stations are more difficult to find. Presumably, No. 22, the well called Frenshelonse, was at the point where the old road from Taunton to Honiton crossed the frontier; the Hennathorne of the Pitminster boundary of 938.

A close search may possibly discover No. 23, the White Stone; but the names Tenacre, Rixwell, and Mountakin's²⁷ Mead, seem lost. At 25, the water of the Colm, or Culm, another recognised point, is reached.

No. 26, Bagbeer's Lane, is easily seen, leading to No. 27, Bagbeer. This farm is now called Strawbridge's. From the farm house the boundary now, as formerly, ascends by the water-course, anciently called Sedgewell Lake, past a white thorn, growing in the wall of a croft, and so to a horse pool, which was at the point where the boundary leaves the lane for the road. It formerly passed a hoar stone, No. 32, and, after another station, reached Salters Way, which brings the perambulation to its end, at the "Merdela," which must have been at the cross roads at Forches Corner.

The above identification reveals an important error in the Ordnance Survey Map, sheet No. XXI., and also in the index to the Tithe Survey, which was engraved upon a duplicate of the same plate. The county boundary, as marked in the map, on leaving Keats' Mill, strikes too far north, and reaches the Otter at the northern of the two fords, formerly called Churchingford—that is to say, at the mill, instead of at the southern, or true Otterford. Thus a strip of land, two and a half miles long, and three furlongs broad at its western end, containing about 300 acres, is thrown into Devon, instead of being, as it should be, included in Somerset; and by the index to the Tithe Survey the same 300 acres are assigned to Yarcombe parish, whereas they are

(27). This diminutive of the word Mount is noticeable.

really in Otterford. Another mistake occurs further on, where the county boundary is so marked as to place Strawbridge's Farm in Devon, whereas it is in Somerset.²⁸ This error, however, is corrected in the Tithe Survey index, where the farm is correctly given as in Pitminster.

Other defects in this part of the Ordnance Sheet, No. XXI., are conspicuous. Tenements are marked, but no names are assigned to them; many names are omitted, and the few that are inserted are not always satisfactory. The writer knows of no authority for "Brice Moor," a place between South Churchingford and Watchford, in Yarcombe parish, where there is a small isolated patch of the chalk formation still left undenuded.

For "Sot's Hole," as the name of a tenement, there is no authority; but it is certain that this place did, until lately, bear the offensive or unmeaning designation of "Cuckold's Pit," which has now been changed to "Warren's."

To the antiquary the most interesting result of the restoration of the boundary line to its true place, is that it brings within Otterford parish, and within the county of Somerset, every one of the ancient mounds or barrows on Brown Down, called Robin Hood's Butts; whereas if the Ordnance Map were correct, the southernmost of them would be in Yarcombe, Devon. Four only of these mounds are delineated in the Ordnance; but the Tithe Commutation Map for Otterford marks five on Brown Down, and a sixth about a mile off, lying a quarter of a mile to the south-east of Holmen Clavil. The first five are nearly equidistant one from the next. The fifth, going northwards, opposite the turning down to Fivehide or Fyfet, stands in a small plantation of firs. It may be doubted by some whether this was really one of the series, or not. One of these mounds is said to have already disappeared, and probably before long the remainder will follow, if the soil

(28). All but a very small strip, between the rivulet and the lane, which, as Mr. Meyler has informed the writer, is in Clayhidon parish, in the county of Devon.



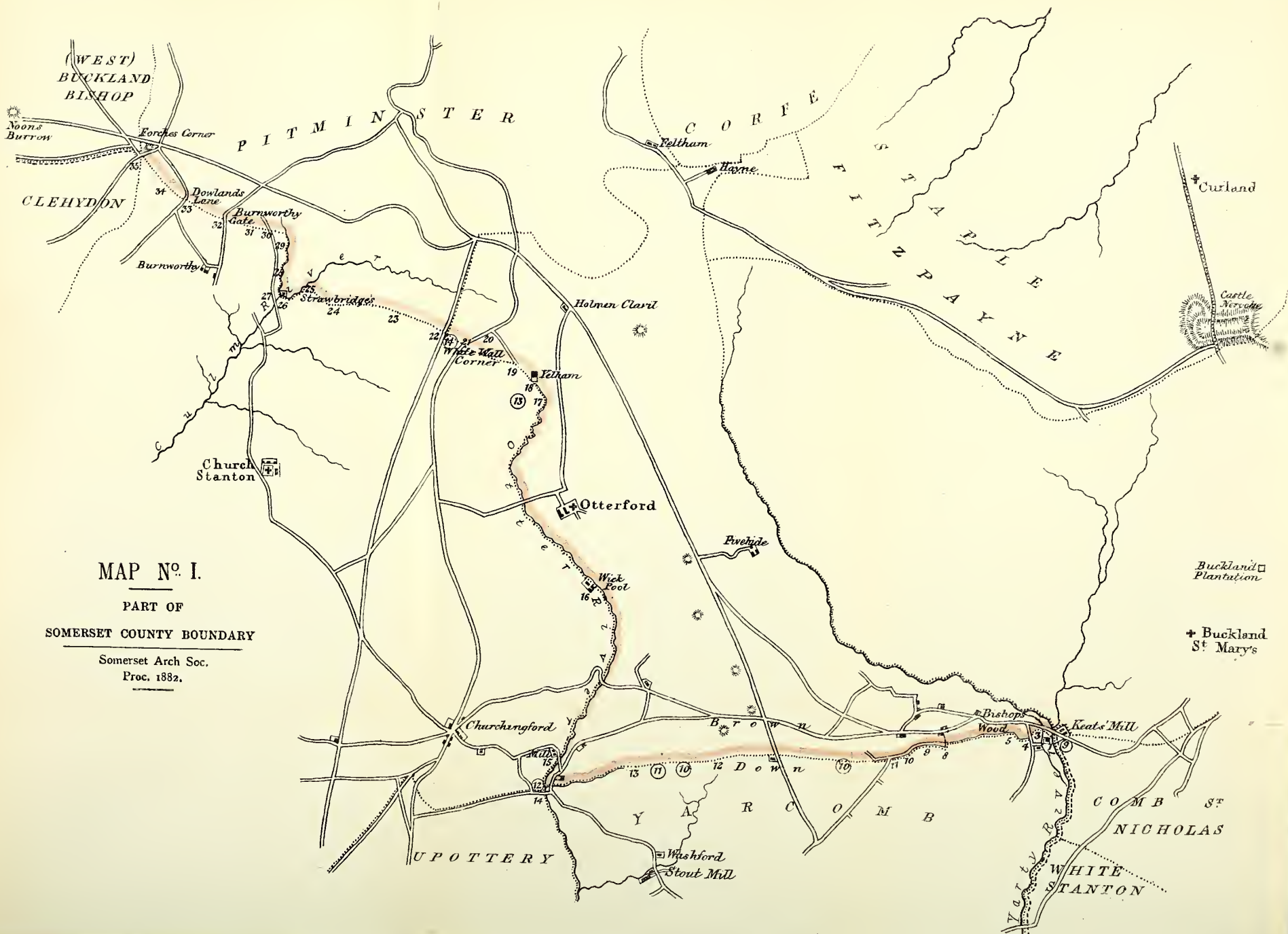
really in Otterford. Another mistake occurs further on, where the county boundary is so marked as to place Strawbridge's Farm in Devon, whereas it is in Somerset.²⁸ This error, however, is corrected in the Tithe Survey index, where the farm is correctly given as in Pitminster.

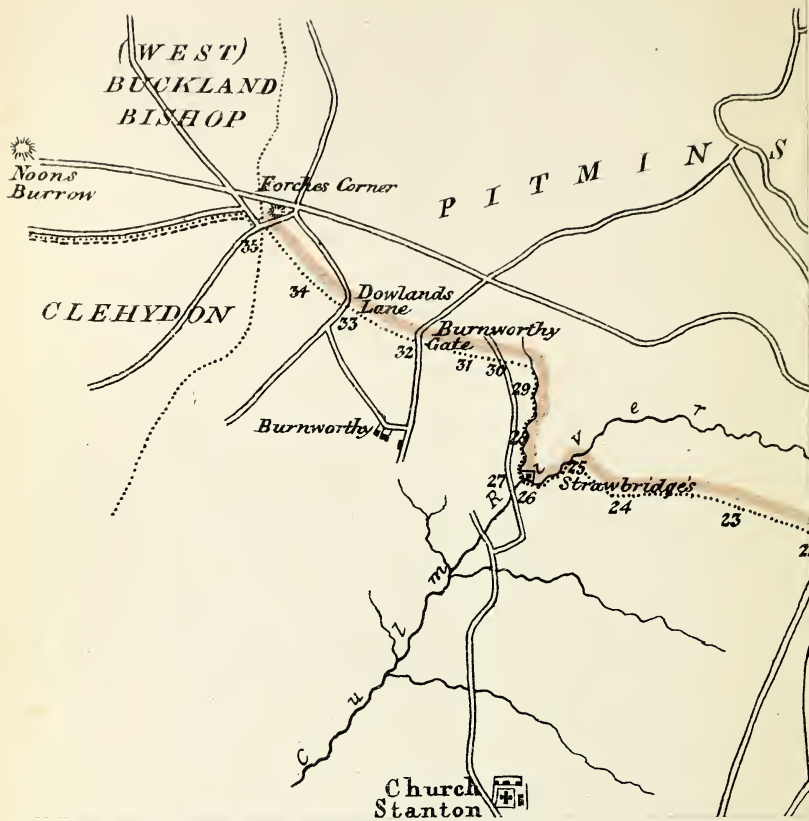
Other defects in this part of the Ordnance Sheet, No. XXI., are conspicuous. Tenements are marked, but no names are assigned to them; many names are omitted, and the few that are inserted are not always satisfactory. The writer knows of no authority for "Brice Moor," a place between South Churchingford and Watchford, in Yarcombe parish, where there is a small isolated patch of the chalk formation still left undenuded.

For "Sot's Hole," as the name of a tenement, there is no authority; but it is certain that this place did, until lately, bear the offensive or unmeaning designation of "Cuckold's Pit," which has now been changed to "Warren's."

To the antiquary the most interesting result of the restoration of the boundary line to its true place, is that it brings within Otterford parish, and within the county of Somerset, every one of the ancient mounds or barrows on Brown Down, called Robin Hood's Butts; whereas if the Ordnance Map were correct, the southernmost of them would be in Yarcombe, Devon. Four only of these mounds are delineated in the Ordnance; but the Tithe Commutation Map for Otterford marks five on Brown Down, and a sixth about a mile off, lying a quarter of a mile to the south-east of Holmen Clavil. The first five are nearly equidistant one from the next. The fifth, going northwards, opposite the turning down to Fivehide or Fyfet, stands in a small plantation of firs. It may be doubted by some whether this was really one of the series, or not. One of these mounds is said to have already disappeared, and probably before long the remainder will follow, if the soil

(28). All but a very small strip, between the rivulet and the lane, which, as Mr. Meyler has informed the writer, is in Clayhidon parish, in the county of Devon.





on which it stands should turn out to be fertile enough to be worth ploughing up or enclosing. One of the advantages of the existing Ordnance Survey is, that the sites of these venerable monuments will be recorded, when they have shared the destruction which slowly but surely awaits every vestige of antiquity on these historic hills.

EXPLANATION OF MAP No. I.

The pink line shows the course of the modern county boundary. The numbers in circles O mark the stations of the boundary of 854. The other numbers mark the stations of the perambulation of 1367, so far as they can now be identified. There is no reason to suppose that the modern boundary has departed from that of 1367, except at the point near Whitewall Corner, above mentioned. Formerly the boundary followed Salter's Lane to the high road, then turned back westward to the Old Head, now Whitewall; whereas now the boundary crosses the road precisely at the Corner,

APPENDIX.

In the following table an attempt is made to compare the stations of three ancient boundaries of Pitminster. The earliest is the boundary of the Bishop of Winchester's estate, in 854, before he possessed Pitminster, and when his boundary only skirted that parish, then lying to the west and south of him. These stations accordingly are reckoned in an ascending line from south to north, and then west. They are numbered in Map No. II. from 14 to 28 inclusive. The second and third are boundaries of Pitminster itself, being of the dates 938 and 941, and 1044, respectively; and these stations, according to the almost universal rule in describing boundaries in ancient times, namely, that of following the sun, or of passing from east to west, through the south point, not through the north, are, throughout the line of coincidence, traced in the opposite direction, namely, from west to east, and from south to north. They are numbered from 1 to 24, and from 1 to 21 respectively in Map No. II. Corresponding stations are set in the same line.

COMPARISON OF BOUNDARIES OF PITMINSTER.

A.D. 854. K.C.D. *MLII. (v. 101).	A.D. 938 AND 941. K.C.D. MCXVII. (v. 231) and MCXL. (v. 271).	A.D. 1044. K.C.D. DCCLXXIV. (iv. 88).
	<i>Sixteen Hides.</i>	<i>Fifteen Hides.</i>
	1. From Fearrescumb's head west along the high road	22. North, straight on to the oakwoods eastward
&c.	2. To the eastern oak woods	
28. To Dove vale ...	3. North, on the right of the western oak woods to the bishop's boundary at Bennancumb {	23. West along the high road to the hoar apple tree
27. Downwards by the flow of the stream and off the stream west to Furesleage	4. Down along the bishop's boundary to Bennancumb's ford as far as to the north Fyrsleage ... {	24. 1. To Binnacumb's brook
	5. To Bennancumb's brook	2. Along the brook to the hedging
26. Southward to the stream called Bennancumb {	6. Up against the stream east of Tuchel's moor	3. Straight to Fyrsleage
		4. To the eastern stream
		5. Along the stream to Tugel's moor

A.D. 854. K.C.D. *MLII. (v. 101).	A.D. 938 AND 941. K.C.D. MCXVII. (v. 231) and MCXL. (v. 271).	A.D. 1044. K.C.D. DCCCLXYIV. (iv. 88).
<p>25. To Hardgate</p> <p>24. Westward to Deep- ford ...</p> <p>23. By the downflow of the stream to Old ford ...</p> <p>22. Westward by a wood to the stream called Sciter</p> <p>21. By the downflow of the stream to Red- ford ...</p> <p>20. To the fount of Blackbrook</p> <p>19. Straight to the gray stone on the west of Manhill</p> <p>18. To the head of Snell's cumb</p> <p>17. To Oxenfield</p> <p>16. To Waldane's way</p> <p>15. To Ringwold's hill (barrow)</p> <p>14. To Withigcumb</p> <p>&c.</p> <p>N.B.—This column is to be read upwards.</p>	<p>7. From the moor { straight on to { Hardgate</p> <p>8. To the hedge ...</p> <p>9. To Deepford</p> <p>10. Along the right landshore down to Sciter's stream</p> <p>11. Straight to the { white stone at the { northern woods</p> <p>12. To Redford</p> <p>13. East to the high road</p> <p>14. South as far as to Langham</p> <p>15. Within the yews to gray stone</p> <p>16. To Lindshore</p> <p>17. To the old hedge at Wealden's way</p> <p>18. Up on the down to Hringwold's barrow</p> <p>19. West along the { down { 20. On Withislade to { Hennathorn</p> <p>21. West along the old dike</p> <p>22. Some while along the dike</p> <p>23. North over Withi- comb</p> <p>24. East to Fearres- cumb's head</p>	<p>6. To the fox hedge</p> <p>7. To Hardgate</p> <p>8. To Twintel's ham</p> <p>9. To Deepford</p> <p>10. East straight to Drindlea</p> <p>11. Along the brook to Wegel barrow</p> <p>12. To the gray stone</p> <p>13. To Redford</p> <p>14. Straight on to Shore- ditch</p> <p>15. Along the highway to Langham</p> <p>16. To the gray stone</p> <p>17. Up along Epp's way to the great linden</p> <p>18. On Oxenfield east- ward up to the stone barrow</p> <p>19. Up along Wealder's way to Pidle's (Piple's) barrow</p> <p>20. To Withicumb's head</p> <p>21. West, straight on to the red ditch</p>

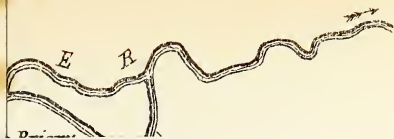
EXPLANATION AND NOTES ON MAP No. II.

The pink line represents the modern boundary of Pitminster parish. The yellow line represents the probable course of the boundary of 854. With some exceptions, the roads and streams are taken from the Ordnance Sheet, No. xxi., engraved in about 1810. Some of the roads, particularly at Forches Corner, and along the Blackdowns, have been since greatly altered. The boundaries of parishes are from the Index to the Tithe Survey, executed after the year 1834.

The numbers *inside* the pink line are the stations of the Saxon boundary of 1044. Those *outside* are the stations of the boundary of 938 and 941; and the numbers in circles O represent the stations of the earlier survey of 854.

Amongst the deviations from the Ordnance above mentioned, is one marking the outfall of the water which flows in a northerly direction, past Trull church—now called the Sherford—formerly Sciter's, stream. The village of Sherford, from which this water takes its name, is wrongly marked "Wilton" in the Ordnance, as if it were the site of Wilton parish church, which really stands much further north. The stream is further erroneously marked in the Ordnance as flowing towards the east, and so falling into the waters to the east of, or below, the town of Taunton. In truth, the whole of this water flows into the river west of, that is, above, the town. Its course is as follows. After making a turn northwards at Sherford village, it flows for about half a mile northward, through the meadows, to a point marked "*a*" in the map. Here it is artificially turned north-westward into a straight channel or goit, called the Mill Stream, reaching to Upper High Street. The Mill Stream goes under the street, and on the north side supplies the mills, called Pool Wail Mills. It then flows northwards, in a channel which some years ago was, if it be not now, in part open, and was called "Rhin," behind the Winchester Arms on Castle Green, and so to the precincts of the Castle, where it is dispersed, and finds its way into the Tone by numerous channels. The Mill Stream above mentioned is drained, or its surplus water carried off, by a cut made at right angles to it, whereby superfluous water flows down to a point near the east of Wilton church. Near this it is joined by the tail water of the mills, which flows down south-west past Hammett's Walk; and these two united currents, meeting near the church, flow in a nearly northern direction past the Gaol, under Shuttern Bridge—over which the Upper High Street road is carried, underground across the meadow opposite the Crescent, and so, in an open channel, near the east of the modern St. John's Church, into the river. This last, the writer feels no doubt, was the original natural course of the Sherford stream, before the diversion at point "*a*" was made.

With regard to the water which flows down past Haygrass on the west, anciently called the Black Brook, the Ordnance Map is less in-



EXPLANATION AND NOTES ON MAP No. II.

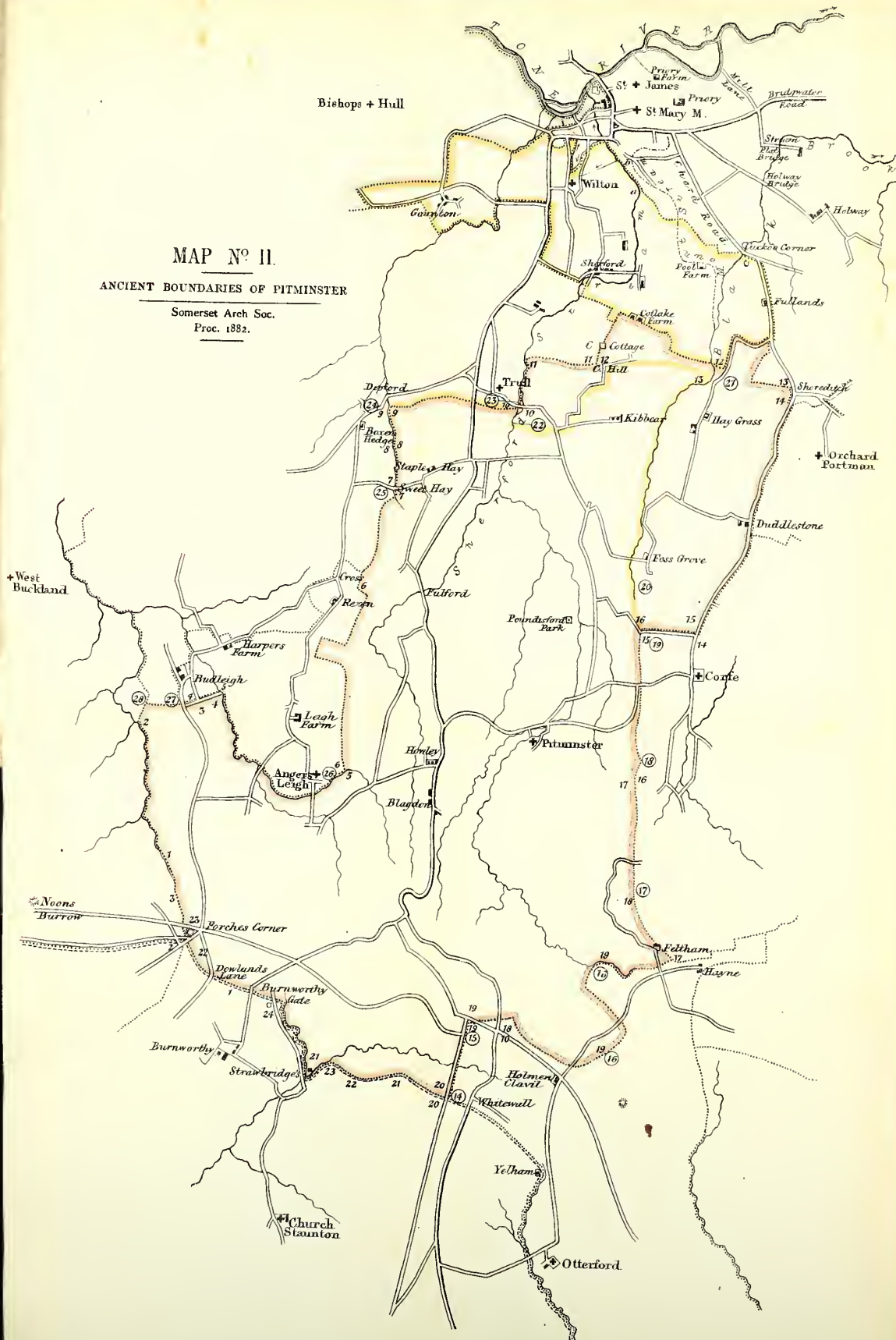
The pink line represents the modern boundary of Pitminster parish. The yellow line represents the probable course of the boundary of 854. With some exceptions, the roads and streams are taken from the Ordnance Sheet, No. xxi., engraved in about 1810. Some of the roads, particularly at Forches Corner, and along the Blackdowns, have been since greatly altered. The boundaries of parishes are from the Index to the Tithe Survey, executed after the year 1834.

The numbers *inside* the pink line are the stations of the Saxon boundary of 1044. Those *outside* are the stations of the boundary of 938 and 941; and the numbers in circles O represent the stations of the earlier survey of 854.

Amongst the deviations from the Ordnance above mentioned, is one marking the outfall of the water which flows in a northerly direction, past Trull church—now called the Sherford—formerly Sciter's, stream. The village of Sherford, from which this water takes its name, is wrongly marked "Wilton" in the Ordnance, as if it were the site of Wilton parish church, which really stands much further north. The stream is further erroneously marked in the Ordnance as flowing towards the east, and so falling into the waters to the east of, or below, the town of Taunton. In truth, the whole of this water flows into the river west of, that is, above, the town. Its course is as follows. After making a turn northwards at Sherford village, it flows for about half a mile northward, through the meadows, to a point marked "*a*" in the map. Here it is artificially turned north-westward into a straight channel or goit, called the Mill Stream, reaching to Upper High Street. The Mill Stream goes under the street, and on the north side supplies the mills, called Pool Wall Mills. It then flows northwards, in a channel which some years ago was, if it be not now, in part open, and was called "Rhine," behind the Winchester Arms on Castle Green, and so to the precincts of the Castle, where it is dispersed, and finds its way into the Tone by numerous channels. The Mill Stream above mentioned is drained, or its surplus water carried off, by a cut made at right angles to it, whereby superfluous water flows down to a point near the east of Wilton church. Near this it is joined by the tail water of the mills, which flows down south-west past Hammett's Walk; and these two united currents, meeting near the church, flow in a nearly northern direction past the Gaol, under Shuttern Bridge—over which the Upper High Street road is carried, underground across the meadow opposite the Crescent, and so, in an open channel, near the east of the modern St. John's Church, into the river. This last, the writer feels no doubt, was the original natural course of the Sherford stream, before the diversion at point "*a*" was made.

With regard to the water which flows down past Haygrass on the west, anciently called the Black Brook, the Ordnance Map is less in

MAP N^o 11.
 ANCIENT BOUNDARIES OF PITMINSTER
 Somerset Arch Soc.
 Proc. 1882.





error. Still, here, the stream should have been marked as flowing much further north of Holway than it is. The stream does, in fact, follow the boundary between West Monkton and St. Mary Magdalen as correctly marked in the Ordnance,* and flowing eastward, falls in near the Blackbrook Inn, having been recruited by several other rivulets.

Besides these natural currents, there is a third, artificial, flow of water which demands attention. Out of the above mentioned Hay-grass stream, otherwise Blackbrook, there is turned off, at a point nearly opposite to the tenement known as Fullands, by means of a regular stone-built watercourse, a leat, or supply of water, which flows on to the town. After proceeding for a short distance nearly north, it turns west, running at the northern foot of Pool Farm, thence through the meadows, till it reaches the road south of the Convent, or Nunnery, grounds. At the western corner of the grounds, at a spot marked "b" in the map, it makes a turn to the east, flowing in a direction at right angles to Silver Street. Shortly before reaching the street, it turns again, running parallel to the street, going under East Street, where a pump in the street now stands, thence under the houses, under Magdalen Street (the modern name of Black Boy Lane),† and at the backs of the houses in Cannon Street, into and under a corner of the Priory grounds. Thence it passes into the Priory fields, and emerges at the western corner of the farm buildings in the fields, whence it flows northwards into the Tone. This stream is variously called Mount Stream, the Town Stream, and Winter's Stream (from the name of the present or a late owner of the Priory, and Priory fields).

Through the kindness of Mr. Meyler, whose able and readily-afforded assistance in discussing many doubtful points of topography the writer here gratefully acknowledges, it is believed some light can be thrown on the construction of this water-course. In Mr. Meyler's possession is a copy of a deed, dated the 24th June, 1332, whereby Alexander, Prior of St. Swithun's, Winchester, confirms to Ralph, Prior of Taunton, the Canons, and their successors, a grant, dated on Ascension Day (28th May) preceding, whereby John, Bishop of Winchester, granted to the Prior and Canons of Taunton, "the whole course of the Rivulet of Blackbrooke in our Manor of Taunton, with the whole profit of any right to be taken to lead the said course into his Pryory of Taunton, instead of the course of the Rivulet of Sherford, as the said course of the Rivulet of Sherford was wont to be led and to run into the Priory aforesaid, to have and to hold the said water-course of Blackbrooke as afore-

* So far as the writer can judge, the boundaries of the parishes near Taunton have been inserted with great correctness, notwithstanding the errors in the plate of 1810, on which they had to be engraved. The case of Otterford, mentioned above, is, however, a glaring exception.

† The lane was lowered to make Magdalen Street, and the water is conducted by a channel under the roadway, near the Fire Office.

said to the said pryor and canons, and their successors, for ever, to doe with the said water in their Pryory aforesaid as to them shall seem expedient."

What seems to have taken place, then, is this. The original natural flow of the Sherford stream having been in a curved line from the point "*a*," round northwards and westwards, to the foot of Wilton church, and then out under Shuttern Bridge, to the river; a diversion was first made from the point "*a*" to the point "*b*," in order to supply the Priory. Then the bishop, requiring this diverted water for his own purposes, caused the straight goit or channel from "*a*" to Upper High Street to be made, and in order to compensate the prior and canons, gave them in return the right to use the Blackbrook rivulet—a right which they proceeded to exercise by making for themselves the water-course from Blackbrook to the point "*b*"; that is, the present Mount Stream.

The reasons why the bishop wanted the diverted water are not difficult to guess. In the first place, he wished to form a vivarium—"one of the luxuries of the day," as the late Mr. Eyton describes it.* This fish pool probably occupied all the ground between the Mill Stream and the foot of Wilton church, covering the site of the present Vivary Park. It was banked up at the northern end, and along the embankment the road was carried. Immediately north of the embankment wall was the Pool Wall Mill. The supply of this mill would be another object for requiring the water—if a mill did indeed belong to the bishop at this spot; and finally, the stream, after flowing to the west of Castle yard, might have been used, upon occasions (as Mr. Bidgood has suggested), to flood the trenches of Taunton Castle.

A few other points may be noted. Waldane's, Wealden's, or Wealder's Way—meaning the way of the woods, or the woodman's road, may be traced by the line of boundary which remains, though the road itself has been, probably long since, diverted. It is evident that the most ancient of the boundaries, that of 854, in passing to the west of Orchard Portman, followed the course of the Blackbrook down to Redford; not that of the road past Duddlestone. Here we find an instance—not unfrequent in ancient times—of a boundary moving away, so to speak, from a small stream, where it was originally fixed, and becoming settled on the watershed line of the valley on one side or the other; practical utility being too strong for artificial rule. In passing from Redford to the Sherford rivulet, or Sciter's Stream, it seems probable that ancient line of boundary went nearly due east and west, instead of going north as far as Cotlake Farm. Somewhere between the two points was a white or gray stone, standing in a wood. Local observation suggests that this stone stood on Cotlake Hill, a few hundred yards south of Cotlake Cottage. The occurrence, at this point, of a deep ditch, forming a narrow foot or bridle-path between hedges, leads one to think that in this ditch we have the actual Saxon boundary itself; which, if so, must have reached the

stream considerably south of Trull church. This view is borne out by the circumstance that the line of 854, in passing from station 22 to 23, is said to follow the "downflow" of the stream to Old Ford, where the present bridge stands. Near this point is a public house, still called the Winchester Arms, the outbuildings of which are on the actual boundary. The inn was so called, probably because here once stood a boundary stone, bearing the arms of the See. Afterwards, it may well be, the bishop's armorial bearings served the purpose of a house sign, for the benefit of the numerous illiterates who could not read written names.

* *Staffordshire Domesday*, p. 21.

On the History of Chard.

BY EMANUEL GREEN (*Hon. Sec.*)

THE MANOR.

IN tracing the history of the ancient Manor of Chard, there are no personal or family doings, no exploits of the mailed warrior or belted earl to record. The whole border district hereabouts was early granted to the bishop, and formed part of his territory, which became known as the Bishop's Hundred. In the Gheld Inquest of A.D. 1084, taken two years before the Domesday survey, it is specially named as the land of Bishop Giso, who was made bishop in 1061, in Saxon times, and from this date our credible history for Chard begins. Giso made it his especial business to gather property by every means to enrich his bishopric, and under his own hand he has left an entreaty to his successors, "in the spirit of fraternal affection," begging them to continue this course, "that they may possess in glory a recompense when they have passed out of this life."¹ For himself he managed so well that his territory measured in 1086, in Domesday book, 78,153 acres. Of these, in Chard there were 5,152, in Tatworth 1,552; together 6,704 acres,² estimated or rated as eight hides; six hides being in hand, and two held of the bishop by one Tegnus.

The average measurement of the taxable hide in Somerset was 248½ acres; so that there was a large area of no special value, not considered taxable at this time.

There were twenty plough lands, a mill valued at a rent of 30d., and the existence of twenty goats is also recorded. The value of the whole in Domesday was £16. Taking Chard in an average with the other taxable lands of the bishop, the

(1). *History of the Bishopric of Somerset. Register of the Priory of Bath.*

(2). *Gheld Inquest, R. W. Eyton.*

rental would be a little more than a penny an acre. There was one labourer to each eighty-five acres, or one to every fifty-two acres actually under the plough.

The records of the time immediately following this are few, and the time itself we should not wish repeated upon ourselves.

The next mention of the manor is in 1256, when the King, Henry III, confirmed to William (Button, 1st) Bishop of Bath and Wells, and his successors, free-warren in his various lordships, including Cerde. To this document there are eighteen witnesses, among them being Robert Walerand.³

In these days, and for long afterwards, not only was the property of a deceased owner enquired into, to avoid damage or loss to the King, as lord in chief, but all sales of land made under license were duly registered. Thus in 1305, 34th Edward I, there is a deed of a purchase by Gregory de Wellington, from William de Borne, of five messuages, a carucate and six bovats and one hundred and twenty acres of land, an acre and a half of meadow, eight acres of moor, and twenty-five shillings rents in Cerde, and other places.

A carucate of land varied in measurement from 147 to 154 acres. As already mentioned, there were noted in Domesday, twenty plough lands in Chard—that is, land occupying or requiring the annual labour of twenty ploughs; these lands would vary in measurement as the quality of the land varied, as the power of a plough to work in light or heavy soil varied. In Somerset a plough land was about 120 acres. There were eight oxen to each plough or team, so that one bovat would represent the possible yearly work of one ox—that is, the eighth part of the work of a plough, which here would be fifteen acres; six bovats would thus be ninety acres.

A few other small transfers may be noticed here. In 1339, Robert le Tailleir sold to Richard de la Chambre, besides messuages, sixty acres of land and woods, and four pence rent in Chard; and it was agreed that after the death of Richard

(3). *Charter Rolls*, 41st Hen. III, mem. 5.

this should go to John Sylveyne and his son John, and to Alice the wife of John the son of John; and after her to the heirs of John, the son of John.⁴ Thus, by a simple process, not only was the transfer made, but in a few lines a settlement also.

In 1418, Edward Courtney, formerly Earl of Devon, had messuages and lands in Chard. In 1421 these had passed to Hugh Courtney, Earl of Dorset, and in 1424 to Sir Hugh Courtney, Kt.⁵

In 1465, Walter Rodeney, Kt., had two tenements, which seem to have passed to Thomas Rodeney, who died in 1469.⁶ In 1466, Johanna, widow of John Talbot, Viscount Lisle, a daughter and heiress of Thomas Chedder, owned four messuages.⁷

In 1418, John Keynes owned lands in Walterscombe; and in 1461, Johanna, widow of Hugh Champernoon, had lands also in Walterscombe.⁸ With other sales or inquisitions there comes a matter of interest to Chard and the neighbourhood.

In 1312, there was a deed between Peter de Columbarius and Roger de Weston and Robert de Quantoxheved, for some messuages, ten carucates of land, woods, and rents, and a mill in Cerde—for which he was to render a pound of wax and a pound of cummin.⁹ In 1359, again there was a transfer of a mill, with belongings.¹⁰ What these mills were is not stated, but it must not be assumed that they were grist mills, as a watchful attention will show.

Passing now to the more important transactions, it is recorded that in 1334, 9th Nov., at Chard, the bishop granted a

(4). *Feet of Fines, Somerset*, No. 99, 14th Ed. III.

(5). *Inq. Post Mortem*, 7th Hen. V, No. 75; 10th Hen. V, No. 29 b; 3rd Hen. VI, No. 30.

(6). *Inq. P. M.*, 6th Ed. IV, No. 42; 9th and 10th Ed. IV, No. 63.

(7). *Inq. P. M.*, 7th Ed. IV, No. 42.

(8). *Inq. P. M.*, 7th Hen. V, No. 42; 2nd Ed. IV, No. 13. *Feet Fines*, 24th Hen. VIII, 1532. *Pat.*, 14th Eliz., part 1.

(9). *Pedes Finium, Divers Counties*, p. 163.

(10). *Feet Fines, Somerset*, 38th Ed. III, No. 49.

license to Umfrid de Keel, to celebrate service in his chapel of Walterscombe, in the parish of Chard.¹¹ In 1383, by an inquisition taken at Yevele, it was found that John Kaill died seised of a carucate of land in Walterscombe, which he held of the Bishop of Bath, as of the Manor of Cherde, valued at 40s.¹² It was further declared that Thomas, his son, was his heir. Thomas died in 1394, and by a similar enquiry the jury found that he had died under age, and at the time was in the care of the King—a ward of Court; that he held the Manor of Cudworth of John Chideoke; a carucate of land in Walterscombe of Mathew Gurney, as of the Manor of Cory Malet; and two messuages and a fuller's mill in Cherde, of the bishop, as of his Manor of Cherde; and lastly, that Idonia, his sister, then aged twelve years and twenty-five weeks, was his heir.¹³ Here is a distinct mention of a fuller's mill, as existing in 1394. Idonia, as a minor and an heiress, after the custom of the time, seems to have been allotted to the wardship of Elizabeth Poulet and others, with the consequence that John Poulet married her when she must have been about fifteen. In 1396, John Poulet, in right of his wife, claimed her land, and asked for an enquiry and a declaration that she was of age, that it might be delivered to him.¹⁴ Five years only afterwards, in 1401, occurs the inquest taken at Bryggewater, on the death of Idonia wife of John Poulet, when it was found, very curtly, that on the day of her death she held a messuage and a fuller's mill in Cherde.¹⁵ But possibly after the deaths of her children, perhaps at the instigation of the next heir, there was a second enquiry, in 1404, in which the general facts and the title are set out fully and clearly, and with the additional information that John Kaill had originally held this property by the concession of John Deynyn, and had died, leaving the children John and Idonia; that John had died, leaving then

(11). *Wells Registers*, Ralph, fol. 83.

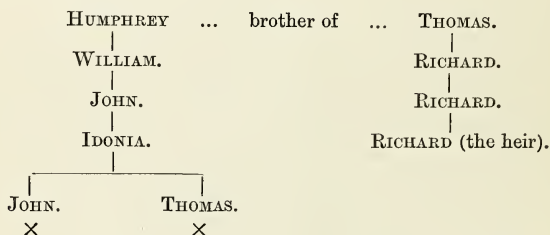
(12). *Inq. P. M.*, 7th Rich. II, No. 48.

(13). *Ibid*, 18th Rich. II, No. 26.

(14). *Ibid*, 20th Rich. II, No. 149.

(15). *Ibid*, 3rd Hen. IV, No. 42.

Idonia as his heir, and that she had married John Poulet.¹⁶ Poulet died in 1413, when by the inquisition taken at Charde it was found that he had left no heirs of his body surviving. It was also found that a son John (Poulet) the son of Idonia, had died young, without issue, and that his brother Thomas the son of Idonia then became next heir; but Thomas having also died under age, Richard Kaile was declared to be next in blood and heir of the said John the son of Idonia and Thomas the brother of John, as being the son of Richard, the son of Richard, the son of Thomas the brother of Humphrey, who was the father of William, the father of John, the father of Idonia, the mother of John the son of Idonia and Thomas the brother of John.¹⁷



These inquests show well how interesting such early documents are; and here we have on one small parchment a pedigree title showing five generations, and all registered in a few lines beyond dispute.

Leaving other holdings, the fortunes of the manor may now be followed.

In 1417 died Sir Thomas Brook, owning twenty-seven messuages, four tofts, a carucate and eighty acres of land, forty-five acres of meadow, and eight acres of pasture in the town of Cherde, held under John Speke, but by what service the jury were ignorant. He held other lands, some in Saunton, of the Bishop of Wynton, as of his Manor of Saunton.¹⁸ The property was next held by the widow Johanna, for her

(16). *Inq. P. M.*, 5th Hen. IV, No. 42.

(17). *Ibid*, 1st Hen. V, No. 54.

(18). *Ibid*, 5th Hen. V, No. 54.

life,¹⁹ and then passed to Sir Thomas Brook, who died in 1438,²⁰ who was succeeded by Sir Edward Brook de Cobham, who in 1464, besides many other properties, had lands in Brookylchester, Brookmontague, and in Chard. Of the lands in Chard, one hundred acres were held of Henry Hull, Esq., by military service ; the other of the Bishop of Bath and Wells.²¹ This Sir Edward was summoned to Parliament as Edward Brook de Cobham, in 1463, 28th Edward IV, and the summons being repeated and continued, a barony by writ was established, and he thus became Lord Cobham. John, his son and successor, died in 1506, and was succeeded by George Lord Cobham, who died in 1558, the last year of Mary, possessed of the Manors of Chardborough, Brook Ivelchester, and Cudworth, and several others in Somerset.²²

This is the first time that Chard Manor is found separated from the bishopric, and it is at once suggested that this change must have occurred after the ecclesiastical disruption, and as the result of some transfer in the reign of Mary. But no such transaction seems to be recorded.

William, Lord Cobham, died in 1596, and by the inquisition taken at Maidstone he was found seised of the Manor and Burgh of Chard, and of the Manors of Hurtham and Brookes Court in Evelchester, and much other property, and Henry, his son, aged thirty-two, was declared his heir.²³ This Henry was summoned to Parliament by Elizabeth in 1597, but afterwards failed in his allegiance to King James, as with Sir Walter Raleigh, he espoused the cause of the Lady Arabella (Stuart) as being a better successor to the crown, was consequently attainted, and his honours and property forfeited in 1604. He died in 1619.

An interesting letter, the result of the intrigues against James has been preserved, and has an especial reference to

(19). *Inq. P. M.*, 15th Hen. VI, No. 62.

(20). *Ibid*, 17th Hen. VI, No. 32.

(21). *Ibid*, 4th Ed. IV, No. 26.

(22). *Ibid*, 1st Eliz., pt. 2, No. 118.

(23). *Ibid*. 39th Eliz., pt. 1, No. 24.

Chard. It arose from the seizure and examination there of a travelling trader, one of three who had uttered some "verie sclanderous speeches" against the lords of the Council. On Wednesday, 27th April, 1603, he reported that the Lord Treasurer, the Lord Admiral, and Sir Robert Cecil, were committed to the Tower for a conspiracy to kill the King, the Queen, and the young Prince, and these speeches were repeated in divers places, as at Crewkerne, at the "signe of the Swanne, to ye goodman of ye house, called Beard." He was examined by Robt. Tocker, Constable of Chard, in the presence of Thomas Cogan and Edward Doughtie. It was the last named who in a fit of loyalty and flutter reported the circumstance in the following letter:—

RIGHT HONBLE.

The dutie whereby I am and ever will be willinglie bound towards your good Lordships wolde not suffer me to heare so damnable an imputation as the enclosed papers doe declare—for God knoweth what unreste it bredde in me after I heard of it. I was from home that daie in wch the wicked person spake thus cursedlie, and at my coming home heard relation of the same to my intollerable greefe and thereupon charged the hoste of the house where the fellows had bene unto the constable of the town (or chief officer) to laye wayte for theyr returne and with all purposed to have made oute hue and crye after them to apprehend the villains, had I not learned that one of the company had left a horse behind him till his return. They are yet in Cornwall, as (the one examined) affirmeth, who came like base fellows from London on foot and on the way fell into companie. I pray God to throw a juste revenge on such impious and execrable blasphemers.

If it be your Lps. pleasure to sende your messenger to my house in Charde I will give the best directions I can for the apprehension of them, for I have seemed to let all slippe withoute much adoee, lest by stirring before aforehande too hotelie the parties might have it brought to their eares afore they loose them, as I hope they shall.

From my poor house in Chard, 5th August, 1603.

EDW. DOUGHTIE.

It is superscribed—

To the right honorable my verie good Lorde the Earl of Nottingham, Lord High Admirall of Englande.

Hoste, Haste, poste poste haste.

This was apparently sent special, and bears the times at which it passed through the hands of certain postmasters. It

was received at "Andever at fower in the afternoon, being Sondaye;" at "Basingstoke at nyne in the nighte sonday;" at "Harfordbury at 2 in the morninge, and at Staines at 7 morninge."²⁴

A survey of the manor taken in 1602, tells the value of the principal tenements, and also, by marking how many of them had been newly built and what a largely increased value was anticipated when lives fell, shows how great was the prosperity in the Elizabethan time.

Thomas Every held for lives as from 1578, one "fayre Inn lyeinge in the hye street," called by the "name of the signe of the Lyon," consisting of "a hall" and a kitchen; "dyvers other fayre and newe built" chambers and stables and out-houses; a garden of one rod, and a bowling alley; a kitchen garden, a meadow of four acres adjoining the back of the house, worth 26s. 8d. per acre, and two other meadows at the end of the town, on the north side of the way leading towards Exeter, containing two acres and five acres, worth 20s. per acre.

Upon the ground were growing sixty elms and ashes, worth twelve pence a piece, one with another.

The "rent to be improved £40 per ann."

John Slape held as from 1584, a dwelling house in the High Street, adjoining the Lyon, with a little garden and a little close, containing an acre, worth 10s. per ann.

The "rent to be improved £5 per ann."

Margaret Channen held for lives from 1593, a tenement on the north side of the High Street, with outbuildings; a garden of an acre, worth 26s. 8d.; and a close of pasture, an acre, worth 27s. 8d.

The "rent to be improved £5 per ann."

John Alston held a large tenement as from 1560, in the High Street, with outhouses and garden, and two closes of pasture at the town's end towards Exeter.

Upon this ground were eight trees, worth 12d. a piece.

The "rent to be improved £6 8s. 4d."

This was a new grant or renewal, made in 1599 with the addition of two lives, when a fine of £30 was paid.

John Moore, alias Brewer, held from 1560, a tenement on the north side of the High Street, with a barn and an acre of pasture, worth 28s. per ann.

The "rent to be improved £4 per ann."

Austyne Atkyn held a faire tenement, newly built, in Hollirod Street, with a fulling mill, and divers convenient rooms for a dyer.

The "rent to be improved £8 per ann."

For inserting two new lives a fine of £12 had been paid.

Besides these leaseholders, there were the copyholders, "without widows' estate."

Henry Munday held a water mill to grind corn, with a little tenement newly erected adjoining.

The "rent to be improved £13 6s. 8d."

Anne Pincher held a large house in the High Street wherein there "now dwelleth" four tenants "severally," with the gardens containing half an acre, and an acre of meadow adjoining, worth 20s. per ann.

The "rent to be improved £7 per ann."

John Sprake held a fair dwelling house and shop to the street.

The "rent to be improved £7 per ann."

A new grant for fresh lives produced a fine of £10.

William Burges held a tenement and orchard of one acre.

To be "improved sixty shillings." For inserting two lives, fine £13 6s. 8d.

Nichs. Wall held a tenement, newly built, in the High Street, divided into two, with a curtilage, newly built, an orchard of half an acre and a meadow of an acre, each worth 20s. per annum.

On the ground were six ashes, worth 12d. a piece.

The "rent to be improved £8 per ann."

Upon a new grant for three lives, one of which terminated almost immediately, a fine of £40 was exacted.

John Braunton held a dwelling house in the High Street, with a garden and a meadow.

There were forty elms and ash, worth 2s. each.

The "rent to be improved £6," and he was to be compelled to repair. The fine for a new grant was £25.

Thos. Raymond held a dwelling house in Holly Rood Street, with garden. A surrender for a new grant cost £20.

The "rent was to be improved £4 per ann."

Thomas Sprage held a fair dwelling house, "newe built," in the High Street with divers other necessary houses, which cost £200 in the building, with a garden plot worth £6 yearly, and a meadow of four acres with forty small oaks thereon, lying in the midst of the great Common called Heathfield in Chafcombe, worth 10s. per ann. There were also sixty oaks, worth 12d. a piece.

The rent improvable £10 per ann.

Robt. Sellwood held two garden plots in the middle of the High Street, "next the Sessions Hall," containing one rod, and a meadow adjoining, of two acres, and a meadow called the Millmead, lying at the back of Munday's Mill, containing five acres, worth 20s. per ann. Upon this ground were growing six ashes, worth 12d. a piece.

The "rent to be improved £8 per ann."

There were, besides some smaller rents, a mill and a cottage built on Cleyves Bar Common, and two mills and two cottages newly built on the same common. The tenants of Robert Henley paid yearly for their cattle going upon this common, 2s. There was also the smith's forge, and some payments, one of 4d., and another of 2d., for walls built on the lord's land; and Phillip Cogan paid 8d. for a wall built on the lord's land, belonging to the sign of the Lyon.

The rents of assize for the manor were £9 13s. 4d. The

tenants had "a large scope of common of pasture for all manner of cattle on Chard Common and Heathfield."²⁵

Before any advantage could accrue from this survey Lord Cobham forfeited the property, and it passed to the Crown. By "grace speciall," in July, 1605, the King granted all that the Manor and Borough of Chard parcel of the lands of Henry, Lord Cobham, to Edward Earl of Hertford, Charles Earl of Devon, Edward Randhill, Kt., Thos. Paradin, Gent., and Andrew Caninge, of London, grocer; their heirs and assigns; which manor and borough were declared worth £11 16s. 7d. per annum.²⁶ A holding such as this, jointly with others, would be but a temporary one and for profit purposes; to trace a descent after it however is often difficult, as not knowing to whom it really passed.

In 1616, 14th James I, Edward Lord Hertford, Fras. Seymour, Knt., Gilbert Prynne, Kt., and Jas. Kirton, Kt., received a license to alienate to the Earl of Essex, the manors of Hatch Beauchamp, Northprit, and Kingsbury, with belongings, and twenty messuages, twenty gardens, two acres of wood, three hundred acres of gorse and heath, and a rent of five shillings, and free-warren in Chard, Hatch, Northperet, Kingsbury, Ilminster, and Somerton; a fair and market in Castle Carey, and the advowsons of the vicarages of Ilminster and Somerton. This sale was duly carried out, but the deed seems not to have been enrolled.²⁷ The buyer was Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, the Parliamentary commander during the Civil War, who died in 1646. It will be noticed that no mention is made here of the "Manor and Borough" of Chard, although free-warren was conveyed, the Chard land, the acreage not determinable, being mixed up with other lands in other parishes. The absence of detail, through the non-enrolment, makes the position extremely puzzling, and for a time the manor must

(25). *State Papers, Domestic.*

(26). *Index, Warrant Book*, p. 43. *Pat.*, 3rd Jas. I, pt. 25.

(27). *Alienation Licenses*, Hil., V. 13, p. 116; *Feet of Fines*.

disappear, until, as presently will be seen, it is found in the possession of the bishop in 1633.

And further, notwithstanding the distinct possession and forfeiture by Lord Cobham, and the equally clear re-grant by royal patent, a title which would supersede all others, no record has been found as to when either the manor or the borough left the bishopric, except for the short time now to be noticed.

In 1548, 20th May, Bishop William Barlow accepting the reformed doctrines and, in his own words, utterly repudiating his earlier ones, surrendered to the King in acknowledgement of the royal supremacy, with other properties, the Manor and Borough of Chard, and on the 27th September he appeared before the Commissioners in the Chapter House at Wells and acknowledged and confirmed the writing and all that it contained.²⁸ On the 10th October in the same year, as a consideration for this surrender, he received a grant of several advowsons named and with them the manor of Woky,²⁹ and then in 1549, on the 13th February, in exchange for the manors of Congresbury and Yatton, the bishop again obtained the manor of Huishe and the manor and borough of Chard, formerly part of his possessions.³⁰ It would seem next that in 1553, the last year of Edward VI, he leased Chard for a term of years to Lord Poulet, accepting a fine of a hundred marks and a rent of fifty pounds a year.³¹ This document may be in existence, but as being a private arrangement it was not enrolled.

On the accession of Mary, Bishop Barlow, as a protestant, was deprived and imprisoned, but escaping he got away to Germany. The bishopric being thus vacant was granted to a popish successor, Gilbert Bourne, who in turn was deprived on the accession of Elizabeth for refusing allegiance and the

(28). *Close Rolls*, 2nd Ed. VI, pt. 4, mems. 1 and 2.

(29). Pat. 2nd Ed. VI, pt. 7, mems. $\frac{32}{12}$.

(30). Pat. 4th Ed. VI, pt. 2, mem. $\frac{41}{17}$.

(31). Add. MSS. Brit. Mus. 30280, fol. 60; Collinson, v. 2; Phelps.

required acknowledgment of the royal supremacy. These changes however, did not apparently affect the lease of Chard, as this was clearly a legal transaction, the rent being due to the bishop for the time being. In a return of the temporalities or property belonging to the bishopric, made in the third year of Mary, Chard is found duly entered and as farmed or leased by Hugh Poulett, at a rent of £50 a year, but, rather awkwardly adds the record, no indenture to this effect was produced.³² In 1583, 25th Elizabeth, by a similar return, Chard is again down as belonging to the bishop, and also in 1584, 26th Elizabeth, in both cases being farmed by Amias Poulett. In 1591 and 1592, 33rd and 34th Elizabeth, similar documents say the same thing, Anthony Poulet having now succeeded as the farmer.³³

It will be noticed that these documents entirely clash with the ownership of Lord Cobham through the same time.

Passing now to the time of the Civil War the end can quickly be traced. Soon after the commencement of that great struggle the properties of those who sided with the King were sequestered or taken from the owners by the Parliament, as were those of the Parliament party by the Royalists, the dominant party in any district endeavouring to impoverish their opponents and get their rents for their own purposes. As the bishop of that time and the Poulets were Royalists their lands early suffered in this way. Besides this, with the strong religious animosity of the time, after abolishing episcopacy and substituting the presbyterian system, an Ordinance was passed in November, 1646, for the sale of all the lands of the late bishops, Commissioners being named for carrying this out. Acting under the powers thus conferred, on the 3rd January, 1649, "in the twenty-fourth year of the reign of King Charles," which would be just three weeks before his execution, in consideration of the sum of £3,718 9s. 6d., one

(32). *Bishop's Temporalities*, 2, 3 Ph. and M., Somerset, No. 47a.

(33). *Bp. Temp.*, Somst. Eliz., Nos. 48, 49, 50, 51.

moiety paid down, the other in six months, they sold to Nathaniel Whetham, of London, Esq., all that the Lordship or Manor of Chard and Borough of Chard, with all belongings, and the rents of assize, burgage rent, customary or copyhold rents, rents of service and other rents, and the yearly rents called old rents, and all that the capital messuage or mansion house with appurtenances, commonly called the manor house, situate and being in the parish of Chard, with all outhouses thereto belonging, containing by estimation three acres, together with all those closes and meadows (called by various names, all duly set out with their measurements), and the messuage called Tapston House, with outhouses, &c., with all courts, wards, heriots, escheats, waifs, strays, goods and chattels of felons and fugitives, felons of themselves, fairs, markets, tolls, and the toll of the beasts sold at St. James's Fair to be kept in Chard, all customs, rights, and royalties and privileges whatsoever belonging, or reputed as part of the said lordship or borough, just as they may have been within ten years before this present Parliament. All which premises were by indenture of the 1st October, in the eighth year of His Majesty's reign (1633), leased by Walter late bishop, to Francis Keene, for twenty-one years, under a yearly rent of £50, to be upon improvement after the expiration of the present leaseholds and copyholds, and of the yearly value of £279 5s. 8d. over and above the said reserved yearly rent. All advowsons of parsonage or vicarage, tithes, churchyards and places used for burial were excepted.³⁴

Whetham under this purchase held the property through the Commonwealth, until the restoration of Charles II, when those who could do so got their lands returned, and Chard again became the property of the bishopric. Although a Francis Keene is named as the lessee, the lease really passed to Poulet, so in 1661 Lord Poulet is found petitioning that—

(34). *Close Rolls*, No. 3415, mem. 42, No. 2.

Whereas one Whetham by some title under the late pretended powers having possessed himself of the Manor of Chard, of late had sought for a lease thereof to be granted unto him by the bishop, whereupon the petitioner had applied also claiming his tenant right to the said manor, the said Whetham first to be re-imbursed by the bishop if upon accompt anything was due to him. The bishop being willing to conclude this arrangement for a valuable consideration in ready money, Poulet promised to defend him against the said Whetham, if the King would be pleased to leave him to the law of the land.

He therefore prayed that he may take the benefit of the law for recovery of possession if he concluded with the bishop's terms, and that the said Whetham, upon a just accompt, should be re-imbursed or otherwise have satisfaction.

The case was then debated by the Commissioners for Public Sales, who recommended the petitioner for a lease, upon the promise that the bishop should be secured against Whetham, and that Whetham should have full satisfaction. This being sent to the Council, it was ordered:—At the Court at Whitehall, 10th July, 1661, that the petitioner be once more recommended “effectually” to the bishop to make him a lease if he found that the right of tenure was in the petitioner.³⁵

It thus passed to the Poulets, who continued as lessees until 1801. In 1800 the lease was just renewed for three lives, father and two sons, when the then bishop determined to avail himself of the provisions of an Act of the 39th Geo. III for the redemption and purchase of the land tax, and for enabling bodies politic or corporate to sell lands for that purpose; this, as always seems necessary, being an Act to explain two other Acts of the year before. On the 19th February, 1801, by indenture between Charles, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and John, Earl Poulett, the latter purchased the Manor and Borough of Chard, for the sum of £10,951 8s. 9d., of which £5,988 7s. 0d. were paid down and the balance by quarterly

instalments, the eighth and last being paid on the 1st February, 1803.³⁶ By descent the property is then traced to the present owner.

Before passing to the history of the borough, notice may be taken of the manor of Tatworth and another property which local knowledge may be able to identify. Want of space prevents more than a short record of a few facts.

Tatworth after Domesday mention, appears in 1315-16, as held by Robt. Filius Pagani, and in 1353-4, John de Palton being Escheator, Tateworth manor with the advowson of the church, was held of the bishop by military service by Robt. Fitz Payn, value 40s. per ann. Robert left as his heiress Isabella his daughter, and so the manor is next found owned by John de Chidyoke, 1387-8, held of the bishop as of his manor of Cherde. His son, John, succeeded him, but in 1407-8 the property had passed to Wm. Bonville, Kt., who was succeeded by his grandson William, the son of John. It then passed to Thomas Bonvyle, at whose inquisition, taken at Charde, 18th April, 1466, it was found to be held in fee of the bishop by the payment of six shillings and four pence in lieu of all services, and John Bonville his son was declared his heir. By inquisition taken at Wayford, 24th Aug., 1495, on the death of this John some settlement is noticed, and the property passed to John Coplestone as being the son of Ralph, the son of Anne, the daughter and heiress of the said John. John Coplestone seems to have died in 1500, when some of his lands were in the hands of John Merifield and another,³⁷ but Tatworth is no longer mentioned. It seems to have passed to Lord la Warre and then to Henry (Grey) Duke of Suffolk and Marquis of Dorset, and on the attainder and execution of the latter for opposing the accession of Mary

(36). *Close Rolls*, 41st Geo. III, mem. 6.

(37). *Inq. P.M.*, 9th Ed. II, No. 63; 28th Edw. III, No. 41; 11th Rich. II, No. 14; 9th Hen. IV, No. 42; 6th Edw. IV, No. 46; 10th Hen. VII, No. 176; 20th Hen. VII, No. 45.

in 1553, was in ordinary course forfeited. By patent,³⁸ in the second year of Mary, it was granted, with other manors in Devon, to William Petre, Kt., as all the manor of Tatworthy and our park of Tatworthy in the parish of Chard, formerly held by Thomas West, Lord la Warre, in hand by the attainer of the Duke of Suffolk.

The other property called Hall is found mentioned so early as 1482, when a sale is recorded, made before Richard Chokke, by John Hugyn and John Heyron, to John Speke, Esq., of a messuage, a hundred acres of land, twenty acres of meadow, sixty of wood, and common of pasture with all rights in two hundred acres of gorse and heath, with belongings, in Hall in the parish of Chard.³⁹ This property appears again in 1600, through a Chancery suit brought by Robert Hendley of Leigh in Winsham, gent., against the representatives of Thomas Selwood, late of Blyndmore, who had died seised of the capital messuage called Blyndmore in Buckland St. Mary, and other lands and tenements called Hall in Chard, leaving his widow executrix, and three children—William, Susan, and Johann. Robert Hendley, the “orator” in the suit, “in consideration of a very great sum of money,” bought the property of William, supposing that he was the heir, but “so it is may it please your good lordships,” the said William with his mother (now married to John Street) and his sister Susan wife of Wm. Foy, and Johann wife of Marmaduke Street, by indirect means withheld the writings and unjustly expelled the orator from the premises.

To this it was answered that deceased was seised of the messuage and land called Hall, and by his will dated 13th April, 1571, bequeathed it with the manor of Westcombeland in Buckland Marie, to his son William, but subject to a life interest for Susan.

The widow answered that Thomas Selwood had settled

(38). 1st and 2nd Ph. and M., No. 889, part 9, mem. 16.

(39). *Feet of Fines*, Somerset, 22nd Edw. IV, No. 81.

these messuages and lands in Chard, called Halle and Wydney, in trust for the life of himself and for her life after him, and through her then husband she claimed the same.

The daughter, Johan, answered that she claimed only one close of pasture called Fursey Close, parcel of the lands called Hall in Chard, as a legacy left in her father's will for her life.⁴⁰ All agreed that William had tried to suppress the will. The "orator" seems to have gained the suit and to have obtained possession, as in 1615 he is found selling lands in Blindmore, Hall, and Chard to Richard Golding and Henry Crukerne, who in 1616 sold again to John Merryefield and John Chase. In 1625, Andrew and Robert Henley sold their lands in Hall in Chard to Henry Henley, and in 1630 he sold them with a water mill and a fulling mill in Hall in Chard, to Thos. Freke and Rich. Swayne, without first getting a license to do so, and this being afterwards discovered the buyers were fined and then as usual pardoned, 9th Feb., 1647-8.⁴¹

THE CUSTOMS OF THE MANOR.⁴²

A Presentment made at the Court Baron held for the Manor of Chard the 20th day of October Anno Domini 1715, by us whose names are under written.

We present our Customs as followeth, viz. :—

We present that the Lord of the Manor may grant five lives upon his copyhold tenements successively, and the first wife or the first husband unmarried may be nominated upon the copy and is good according to our custom.

We present that the wife may surrender her right by her husband's lifetime, being first privately examined by the steward before the surrender, and doth it freely.

We present that no copyhold estate can be granted by the

(40). *Chancery Proceedings*, Eliz. Hh. 3.

(41). *Alienations*, vol. xii., pp. 192, 202 ; vol. xv., p. 184 ; vol. xx., p. 155.

(42). Kindly contributed by W. C. Tucker, Esq., Town Clerk.

Lord of this Manor to any person without the consent of the purchaser and each person named in the copy doth make a surrender.

We present that no person can surrender being under age.

We present that no copy in reversion can be granted by the Lord of this Manor without the consent of the purchaser and those lives that are then living named in the copy.

We present that if two or three persons do purchase an estate from the Lord of this Manor to hold the same jointly together, it is good according to our custom.

We present that no copyholder within this Manor can sell any parts of his copyhold tenements without an agreement with the Lord, and a surrender made in open court within this Manor.

We present that no copyholder can within this Manor let fall into decay any dwelling house, nor suffer any of the Lord's soil against the river to waste for want of piling or fencing or otherwise, upon pain of amersement according to the offence.

We present that no copyholder within this Manor can allow any one to common for part of his copyhold tenement, but every copyholder within this Manor hath a right to common as many cattle as he can winter the same upon his copyhold tenement.

We present that every copyholder tenant hath a right to cut furze for house keeping, and to dig marle in our common for the improvement of his copyhold tenement.

We present that no copyhold tenant, nor any other person, are to keep any sheep in our common between the 5 and 20th (25th) day of March and the 1st day of November, but may be impounded and pay as trespassers.

We present that by our custom we are to have two courts a year, one at Lady Day and the other at Michaelmas, and at our court we are to present every year three for Reeves, who have Reeves' places, and of those three Mr. Steward is to choose one to be Reeve for the year ensuing.

We present that the Reeve is to have all his rent and wheat allowed him for his year's service, and is also to have all the wafts and estrayers as they are appraised by three or four customary tenants—a sheep is four pence and a lamb is two pence. The Reeve is also to have two loads of wood out of the Lord's woods.

We present that the copyhold tenants that serve's jurors in the Court Baron are to present three for Haywards that have Haywards places by copy of court roll, and the Reeve is to choose one of them to be Hayward for the year ensuing, and for his year's services he is to have all his rent and wheat allowed him as the Reeve hath, and is to have a certain plott of ground lying in Bishop Mead, one of the common meadows called the Haywards Ham, and to have one load of wood out of the Lord's woods.

We present that at the death of every tenant the Reeve is to seize a heriot, if it be heriotable it is the best lived goods which the tenant died possessed of wheresoever it is to be found, but if he died possessed of no lived goods then the best dead goods which he hath of his own at the time of his death, but not the goods of any other persons although it be found upon his copyhold tenement. There are several heriots named by our agreement in the several copies within the Manor.

We present that every copyholder that is to pay chisem wheat is not to be compelled to pay better wheat than is that year grown upon his copyhold tenement.

We present that no freeholder hath any right of common belonging to this Manor.

We present that time out of the memory of man at Martin's Day when the Reeve and the Hayward doth receive in the Lord's chisem wheat, the Lord of this Manor did allow eight shillings and the Dean of Wells five shillings towards the charges expended on the tenants which brought in their wheat.

We present that the Lord of this Manor is not to build or erect any house or houses in or upon our common or Hearth-

field or waste ground within the said common Hearthfield, neither to break up any ground in the said common for marl without the consent of the tenants of this Manor.

We present that the Lord of this Manor is to maintain a sufficient pound within this Manor for the impounding of cattle.

THE BOROUGH.

The first mention of Chard otherwise than as a Manor is in 1198, when Savaricus being bishop, one hundred shillings were given from Cerde by the hand of the parson there, for masses to be said for one year in the church at Wells, for the bishop, his predecessors, the benefactors of the church, and all the faithful defunct.⁴³ But the time from which Chard starts into life as a town dates from Bishop Joceline (Trotman) who began his episcopate in 1206. In 1234 Joceline divided the income of the church, and appointing the larger or rectorial tithes to a cathedral officer known as the Prepositus or Provost, he decreed that in the church of Cerde there should be a vicar whose income should arise from all the small tithes and fees, and the tithes of hay, except the tithes of hay from the bishop's own demesne and the tithes of the mills.

A house was also assigned him near the Court of the Provost, with the condition that no new aperture was to be made in it on that side.⁴⁴

Having done thus for the church Joceline then gave the first form to the borough, making a certain limit independent of him as Lord of the Manor. The document, the original being in Latin, reads: "To all to whom the present writing shall come, Joceline, by the grace of God Bishop of Bath, greeting in the Lord. Because we desire the improvement of our Manor of Cerde we will and grant that the town of Cerde within the metes underwritten, be a free borough

(43). Add. MSS. Brit. Mus., 30280, fol. 61 ; Registers 3, fol. 136.

(44). Add. MSS. 30280, fol. 61 ; Joceline Register, fol. 105.

for ever: and these are the metes of the same borough:— on the east side Schirested, on the south side the gate of our Court, on the west side the Staunesmith, on the north side la Hertbyri next to the cross near Kynemercerde. And we will and grant unto all persons willing to build within these metes an acre each for twelve pence each yearly. And that every one now possessing, or who shall possess hereafter, any burgage within the same metes, shall have free license to dwell there and to depart and also to return with his chattels and to mortgage and sell his houses to any, other than to Jews, and with full power to transfer the same unto the use of whomsoever they may please except unto religious houses or churches which they shall not be able to do without the special license of us or our successors. And whatsoever they shall make out of their burgages our rent shall always remain to us entire, to wit, from every burgage twelve pence each. Moreover we have granted that if any injurious dispute shall happen to arise within the bounds, they shall have full power of making concord between the parties, no judgement being required from us as to the custom thereupon, nor any reparation until the burgesses shall fail in doing justice, unless a mortal wound or lasting bodily injury shall have befallen or unless one of the burgesses shall make an appeal to our judgement, the royal justice or dignity being in all things preserved. We forbid also that any one presume to buy raw skins or hides in the same town, unless he be in the rank and authority of a burgess of Cerde. Given at Werminster, by the hand of Master Walter de Maydenestan on the day of St. Maurus (Jan. 15), in the twenty-ninth year of our pontificate (1234)."

Although it is not so stated, this self government must have included the right to nominate a chief and assistants for him, in the place of the lord's steward. This chief would become in some districts the Bailiff or Provost, in Chard he became the Reve, the name specially in usage in the western parts of England, a word of Saxon derivation, and from which then

comes the Portreve, or Townreve, as distinguished from the Shire-reve. His duty would be to keep the peace and do various offices for the welfare of the town, to prevent trespass, and to see equity and right between the lord and his tenants.

These privileges were confirmed by Bishop William Button (1st), with some additions. His grant reads :—

“ To all faithful Christians to whom the present writing shall come. William by the grace of God Bishop of Bath and Wells, greeting in the Lord. Because we desire the advancement of our Burgesses of Cerde, we will and grant for us and our successors that the aforesaid Burgesses have yearly for ever the Fairs of St. James entirely and without diminution within the metes of the borough of Cerde, and their Markets every Monday freely as they have been accustomed to have, saving to us and our successors the tolls and fines and other profits in the aforesaid Fairs and Markets for any trespass whatsoever committed. Also we will and grant that the aforesaid Burgesses may be able freely to bequeath their burgages in their wills to any person or persons whomsoever without impediment, except to Jews or to religious Houses, saving to us and our successors the rents and services due from the same. Moreover we have granted to the same Burgesses that none of them shall be bound to perform suit save at the two Hundred Courts yearly in the aforesaid borough, to wit, at the Hundred Court of St. Michael and the Hundred Court of Hokeday, saving the pleas commenced and to be determined in the same Hundred Courts from three weeks to three weeks, and for writs of the Lord the King that are pleaded touching the indictment of robbers, and also by lawful summons in matters affecting the peace and rights of the Lord the King and ourselves. All which as aforesaid for us and our successors we have specially granted unto the aforesaid Burgesses and their heirs or assigns, and by this present writing do confirm all their liberties which they have hitherto

used, for ever. In testimony whereof we have caused our seal to be affixed to the same. Given at Kyngesbury on Monday next after the Feast of St. Barnabas, in the fifth year of our pontificate (1253)."

In 1275 when enquiry was made throughout the county to learn by what title lands and other privileges were claimed, the jury found that the bishop held the town of Chard, but by what title they were ignorant.⁴⁵ The bishop was then called upon to appear at Somerton to show by what warrant he held the town and by what warrant he claimed waifs and strays and assize of bread and corn therein. He replied that he held by charters of King John and King Henry, but that Chard was not a town or borough.⁴⁶

The charter of Henry III, 1256, granting freewarren in the manor is already noticed; that of John granted that all men of Axbridge, Welynton, and Cherde, free tenants and born in the same, should be free of toll—*theolomo, picagio, panagio, et Kaiagio*—for all things.⁴⁷

Bishop Robert Burnell confirmed all these grants, and now not only privately as for himself but by *inspeximus* under a royal enrollment. The bishop's confirmation sets out that, having inspected the charter of the Lord William of happy memory our second predecessor and holding firm and valid the same, by our pontifical authority we have caused it to be strengthened by the affixing of our seal. Given at Crukern the 2nd day of the Nones of April in the year of our Lord 1280 and in the fifth of our consecration. This affixing of the seal was not the sole strengthening which now occurred, and the burgesses must have rejoiced when these hitherto private promises were confirmed by royal grant and a legal title given by the enrollment of the whole. The King's document begins:—

(45). *Hundred Rolls*, 4th Ed. I, p. 127.

(46). *Placitu Quo Waranto*, 6th Ed. I, p. 703, Rolls 47, 68.

(47). *Pat. Rolls*, 19th Ed. III, mem. 13.

“The King to all whom &c., Greeting. We have inspected the Charter of confirmation which the Venerable Father Robert, Bishop of Bath and Wells, hath made to the Burgesses of Cerde:—and then setting out the documents already quoted:—We the grants aforesaid holding firm and valid do grant and confirm to the aforesaid Burgesses and their heirs as the same Burgesses and their ancestors have hitherto used the same liberties. In testimony whereof, &c. Witness the King at Exeter, the 7th day of January (1285).”⁴⁸

After this enrollment Chard soon became a borough, sending its members to the Parliament.

Parliaments in those days were not continuous for years, as known to us; called perhaps for a special purpose, they lasted but a short time at the will of the King, and were then dissolved. The writs, too, seem to have been issued with much irregularity. The first record found for Chard is in 6th Edward II, for the Parliament summoned to meet on the 18th March, 1312-13, when the members returned were Wm. le Sopere and Peter Clericus. In 1313, 7th Edward II, John Long Faber and Stephen de Leghe took their places. In the next Parliament Chard was not represented, or possibly the return has been lost. In 1315, 8th Edward II, John Bouedich and Thos. Huel were the chosen ones; and then, although there were other Parliaments, it is not until 1321, 15th Edward II, that Chard appears again, when John de Worthe and Wm. le Sopere were returned. In 1322 the Parliament met at York on the 2nd May, when Wm. le Sopere and John Bouedych reappear. In 1323, 17th Edward II, the Parliament having met at Westminster on the 20th January, was prorogued to the 23rd February, when William le Sopere and John le Watersmyth came up for Chard. In the next Parliament there is no return for Chard, but in 1325, 19th Edward II, came Henry de Corton and Henry Faber. There are then two Parliaments without Chard, and then, in 1327, 2nd

Edward III, at York, occur John le Smyth and Richard le Dykare. The writs for this meeting requested that some discreet wool merchants should be elected to advise the King on matters relating to that trade. The next Parliament was held at Northampton, in 1328, 2nd Edward III, when Chard was represented for the last time by the same John le Smyth and Richd. le Dykare.⁴⁹ According to the then custom, members were paid for their attendance, and from Chard it is found that John le Smyth and Richard le Dykare were paid 2s. per day, or five pounds in all—a good sum then—for attending twenty-eight days.⁵⁰ The return of members was sometimes discontinued to save these expenses.⁵¹

Chard also became an assize town, not specially so, as now would be the case, but a resting place for the judges, who made no stay but were itinerant, journeying on almost daily. The first notice found occurs in 1266, 51st Henry III, when the courts were held at Cerde Episcopi, on Saturday, on the morrow of St. Katherine.⁵²

Chard is here called Episcopi—Bishop's Chard—the only occasion met with, thus distinguishing it from its neighbours.

Other assizes were now held from time to time, the actions recorded being almost all relating to land, and especially to get declarations of the interest owned by widows in dower. There was an action in 1322 of “novel disseisin,” as it was called, against Margaret, widow of Nicholas Moelles of North Cadbury, and the document is interesting as it bears thirty North Cadbury names.⁵³

In 1324, again, at Easter, there were several such actions about lands in several parishes named, including some belonging to the Chapel of St. Eustache in Donneyete; common of pasture in Blackwell, and one by John Cole against Stephen

(49). *Returns of the Parliaments, &c.*

(50). Mr. Spicer, M.S. (51). Prynne, *History of Burgesses.*

(52). *Coram Rege Rolls*, skin 3, skin 8, dors., No. 132.

(53). *Assize Rolls, Somerset*, 16th Ed. II, M. $\frac{5}{16}$ 2.

de la More, Knt., for lands and tenements in Backwell juxta Chelvy.⁵⁴

One other assize must be noticed, and this one will give a clear notion of the judges itinerant and the delightful exercise experienced by suitors. The chief trial, too, is a curious one. In 1377 the judges arrived at Bathoneston on Monday after the Feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle: on Tuesday they were at Bath; on Wednesday at Wells, and on Thursday at Street juxta Glastonbury. It will be observed that they did not enter Glastonbury officially, but a stay seems to have been made hereabouts, as they next appear at Pontyngton on Wednesday in the Feast of the Decollation of St. John. The business here, as recorded, was simply the adjournment of the Court to Jevclchester for the Saturday; then came Mulborn Port on Monday, and on the 7th March, 51st Edward III, they arrived at Chard. From Chard they proceeded to Taunton, and so in due time returned to Westminster. The case which occupied them was a question of trespass brought by the Dean and Chapter of Wells against several persons named, some being called chaplains and others from their names being local gentlemen, for disturbing the peace and their free warren at North Curry, and that they *vi et armis* entered and carried away cattle to the value of £200, and also killed the hares, rabbits, pheasants, and partridges—*lepores, cuniclos, phasianos, et perdrices*—and took corn and hay to the value of £40, and did no good to the ditches and walls.⁵⁵

It would certainly appear that these parties had a very good time, and that—

A moonlight night was their delight,
In the season of the year.

Chard continued prosperous, especially so, as did all England, during the reign of Elizabeth, but whether any other charter than that already noticed was ever granted cannot be here

(54). *Assize Rolls, Somerset*, 18th Ed. II, M. $\frac{5}{16}$ 3.

(55). *Assize Rolls*, No. 24, 50th Ed. III, M. $\frac{5}{16}$ 9.

determined. The present corporate seal bears the date 1570, but notwithstanding much search for it no Elizabethan charter seems to have been enrolled. The chief officer, however, certainly became the Mayor, as may be gathered from documents now to be noticed. The first mention found is in 1609, by a letter sent by the then Mayor to certain London commissioners, relating to a proposed monopoly or company for trading to France. This letter is of sufficient interest to be noticed in full.

THE MAYOR OF CHARD TO THE COMMISSIONERS.

Uppon receipte of your Worships lre to me directed dated the 13 Julie last I have accordingly acquainted all marchants of this town of Chard with the contentes thereof. Whereunto they awnswere that (as they thinke) they did not misunderstand the former letter sente by the right hon. the Lo. Treasurer for that (as they saie) the firste chardge uppon the troubles in Fraunce of this newe tax and imposition came by reason of false and defective cloth sente thither by the Londoners, and yet they (to their great chardge) have been enforced to contribute to their loss. And whereas nowe youe demand by your letter £5 of every marchant that shall be made free of this newe devised incorporated Companie by the Londoners wch (yf it shd proceed) will amounte to a greatesume through the whole land, they have againe delibatlly considered of the manifold mischiefes and greates inconvenyences wch may ensue to themselves and their posterities thereby, and thereuppon doe altogether mislike deny and refuse to joine with the Londoners in anie trade order or Corporation at all, but to remaine free (as they were borne and ever have lived in former times). The aged sorte having traded 50 or 60 yeares thinke it muche nowe to pay £5 a man at the period of their travells. The younger sorte and the reste say that their dailie chardge is so great for costome and other newe imposicons that they scarce gaine or win £5 at the yeares end uppon all their adventures, and many cominge newlie oute of their apprentishippe have scarce £5 stocke to beginne their trade and yet by this their credites doe mainteine their estates in good sorte. Besides manie poore decayed marchants though not of abillitie to pay £5 yet desire to contynue their trade and doe seeke to lyve and mainteine their Credyt. They further awnswere that experience doth teach them that by the late Spanish Corporacon wch the Londoners also first soughte oute, these western p'tes were manie waies chardged and troubled and yet at laste never gained anie thing at all by it, but that it was a dailie burthen to them as long as it contynued. Touchinge the takenge awaie of the late newe imposicons, they saie they have had greates wronge in that they have paid it as long as they have done uppon the Londoners losses and their peticons made to the Lords

for that they alledge that not long scence by duke Mercuries time in Brittainē they received and susteyned greate losses to the utter undoing of divers of them and makeinge their griefes knowen by waie of complaint at the Councell table in hope to have some redresse and to be relieved here at home, could never obtaine that the Londoners nowe have done, so that these western marchaunts loste altogether and never had anie recompense at all. Many other causes they alleadge for themselves over long now to trouble you wo: wth all, onely this they conclude that as their bodies, goods, and lives are all at his maieties pleasure and in his highnes power, soe they hope that his grace will not presse them to so greate and intollerable inconvenyence, but will rather so graciously favoure them, as that they may peaceably enjoy their trade here for Brittainē wthoute anie such contribution to their fellow subiectes or payenge anie other fee then onelie their Customs and Subsidies wch they acknowledge to be due to his matie. Further they alleadge that yf this extraordinarie chardge of £5 a man or anie other newe tax should be imposed uppon them and that this newe devised Corporacon should be established it will in small time growe so greate a hindrance and defecte in the Commonwealth, that shippinge and maryners will be cleane decayed, over and besides many poore clothiers makeinge course cloths by reason of the free trade for Britanie have vente for their comodities to their (sometimes) p'ffit and comfort, who otherwise by this newe practise will be cleane barred from all trade, by reason that the Londoners being men of greate wealth by their agents in Fraunce and their helpers at home will be alwaies readie first to buy, and the best and first to sell, and the meaner sorte shall buy and sell when they have done and ever come to a late market to their utter undoing, for they say, yf the marchant have noe trade, the clothier hath noe vent, yf the clothier want utteraunce the whole country decayeth, for noe trade noe marchant, no marchant no clothier, noe clothier noe florishinge Common Wealthe. All wch premisses, both marchants and clothiers of this our poore Towne, doe all confidently hope that his Royall Matie in his most princely providence and the honorable Lordes of his highnes moste honorable pryvie Councell in their greate and inestimable wisdomes will charitably consider and weighe and will graunte to them the libtie of their former accustomed trade for Britanie freely, for they never or very seldome trade for Roane or anie other place thereabout, but onely Britanie, Rochell and Bourdeaux. And thus havinge as I hope satisfied your demaund in this respect, doe nowe wth due remembraunce of mye humble dutie do commend yo^r wo: to the most mercifull p'tection of the almightie and wishinge yo^r everlastinge healthe doe humbly take my leave.

Chard this xiiith of August 1609.

Yor most humble to be Commanded.⁵⁶

This document bears the Corporation seal, but unfortunately there is no signature, no mark, and so the name of the mayor must remain unknown, but the story gives us a pretty insight into the trade at this date. Other notices of the trading occur from time to time. In 1613, a warrant was issued under royal sign manual that the "customer" of Lyme should enter as Taunton "cottons" certain coarse "cottons" made at Taunton and Chard, and charge a duty of 16d., instead of the duty on baize.⁵⁷

There seems no special record further until the time of the Civil War, when Chard, as did Somerset generally, opposed the tyranny of the King. The earliest intimation came with the attempt to collect the tax called Ship-money, when Sir Thomas Wroth, the sheriff, attending the judges at Chard, reported that he "found much delay and unwillingness in the place" to pay the impost.⁵⁸ When all disputes culminated in open rebellion in 1642 and volunteer and militia troops were raised on both sides, Chard situated on the western road was constantly alarmed by the passing and re-passing of the troopers. No great fight however occurred in the immediate neighbourhood. It happened that in 1643, when all interest was concentrated in an expected encounter, which eventually came off on Lansdown, near Bath, in July, that the lower borders of the county and about Chard were unprotected. Advantage was taken of this by "young Bragg" of Sadbury, and "young Bancroft," to raise about eighty troopers and, so aided, they much disturbed, plundered, and oppressed the "well affected" to the Parliament. To check them a troop of horse and a company of dragoons were sent to "old master Bragg's" house, hoping to find the youngsters there, but they getting notice of the intended visit quickly fled. The soldiers however sacked the house and took "store of silke gownes and scarlet clothes with much pillage." The

(57). *State Papers*, Dom., Jas., vol. 75.

(58). *State Papers*, Dom. v. 448, No. 78.

young gentlemen were soon heard of again at Chard, when a company of foot, joined now by a company from Lyme, went there after them and should have captured them all. As it was Capt. Pyne, getting to Chard early in the morning secured sixteen prisoners and nineteen horses. The others lay out of the town about a mile off towards Taunton, and as Pyne's men were leaving Chard to attack them they met a troop of their own comrades, new arrivals, coming in, who persuaded them rather to return and refresh themselves. This being agreed to was done, sentries being duly posted in a proper manner, but these intended guardians instead of watching neglected their duty and also fell to drinking. As soon as "young Bragg" heard of all this he took forty of his horsemen and, coming suddenly on the revellers, recovered seven of his men with their horses, killed the Lyme Captain and took one prisoner. The others of Capt. Pyne's men, retaining their prisoners, got safely away.

In 1644, the King in passing through Somerset was at Chard and stayed at Mr. Bancroft's house, his troop going to White-staunton. On leaving for Devon he had hardly got clear of the town when a party of horse from Lyme attacked and took eleven horses which, from their rich trappings, were supposed to be the King's saddle horses. On his return from Devon His Majesty again occupied Mr. Bancroft's house, and, with about ten thousand men, remained in or near Chard for a week, waiting promised supplies which never came. From "our Court at Chard," 30th September, he issued a proclamation declaring his intention to proceed to London and offer terms of peace. During the stay the troopers as usual lived entirely on free quarter. Some being billeted in the house of "an ancient honest poor man" (*i.e.*, a Parliament man), had boiled meat and broth supplied them, but to this they demurred as not being good enough. When Grimes, their Quartermaster saw it, he abused the host and bawled out, "You old rogue, do you give us your hog's wash, we will have roast meat." Yet with all

this abuse the utmost courtesy was demanded and accorded as to guests. All expected and promised support and supplies from Somerset having failed, as did a petition attempted in his favour, the King left Chard for Hinton St. George reporting that he was going to Bristol hoping to draw his opponents that way, but troopers and spies were sent forward to watch and these reported that he marched with but few impedimenta, so it was concluded that he did not mean fighting but was rather a "western oar," when he "looked west he rowed east." In December, 1644, on hearing that a Parliament force was advancing to relieve Taunton, the Royalists then besieging that town retired to Chard where their opponents came up to them, causing them at once to retreat, at first orderly enough, then disorderly, so that no engagement occurred. In 1645 again, the Parliament force coming from London to relieve the second siege of Taunton arrived at Chard 9th May, where they heard that that town must fall if not at once succoured. Their march was consequently continued notwithstanding their fatigue, with the well known result.

Exeter being another doomed garrison, on the 7th October, 1645, Sir Thomas Fairfax arrived at Chard with about nine thousand men, and, not waiting for General Cromwell, went on at once for Devon. Cromwell arrived on the 20th, and after resting his men for a few days he went on to join Fairfax.

After the fighting was over, the losing Royalists were compelled to pay a composition or fine for the restoration of their estates, with some exceptions, where even this privilege was not allowed; and others had to send in a return or schedule of their property, upon which a proportionate fine was fixed. Taking a short notice of the Chard names alphabetically, first comes:—

Bancroft, John, Merchant. Adjudged a delinquent 5th Oct., 1643, and paid £400; 10th Oct., compounded and paid another £400, when he was freed from sequestration, released from prison and returned to Chard. He was found in Exeter

at the surrender of that city, and was consequently again sequestered. He appealed against this, 19th June, 1650, but the judges "found not sufficient matter to discharge his sequestration.

He then compounded for	£	s
Two messuages in ruins from the late war,		
formerly valued at	12	0
A copyhold	24	0
Three closes held for three lives	6	0
Goods	15	0
Household stuff taken from him during his		
appeal	58	3
Owing to him, for which he had been in suit		
for many years	1,154	14
Other debts, doubtful	620	0
All which debts were compounded for in his		
first composition.		
Other debts due to him, "absolutely deperate"	4,161	0

Against these amounts, towards a reduction, he		
stated that he owed	1,886	10
That the Parliament ships had taken from him	2,020	0
Taken from him in the West by the Parlia-		
ment force	1,350	0
And by the King's forces as much or more.		
On the 24th Sept., 1650, the fine, at a 6th, was		
fixed at ⁵⁹	500	0

It must be remembered that these amounts represent perhaps fifteen times their sums in our money: as the subject is a difficult one, say ten times only; that is, one shilling then would buy as much or more than ten shillings now.

Cogan, Thos., Gent., made a first return in 1648, but, as was not unusual, understated the value:—

(59). *Royalist Compositions*, 2nd series, vol. xlvi. fols. 829 to 852.

His Chard property, a "ruinated Inn," and a	£	s
meadow were valued at	5	0
Lifehold at	15	0
Devon property	33	0

For which the fine was fixed at... .. 147 15

But the under value perhaps being discovered he sent in other particulars, 5th April, 1649, acknowledging his error, when the first fine was cancelled.

Rents in Tatworth, value per annum ... 1 16 2

The first shear of the grass of Orchards

Meadow 4 0 0

Tenements in Chard, value before the

"troubles" 10 0 0

"Parsons Lands" in Chard, for three lives,

before the "troubles" worth 18 0 0

A property in Devon 36 0 0

The fine at a 6th was now 206 15 6

Towards getting a little favour, it was certified by John Pym, Edward Ceely, R. Trevillian, and He. Minterne, that he had taken the Covenant, 16th March, 1647.⁶⁰

The first shear of grass above noted was bought by Philibert Cogan, 31st Elizabeth, 1589, as *quartam part: primæ tonsure*—the fourth part of the first shear of six acres of meadow.⁶¹

Cogan, Wm., Clothier, was charged that he deserted his own dwelling, went to Exeter, and voluntarily contributed towards the maintenance of the King's forces.

His account says that he had a tenement in £ s

Chard, held for three lives of the Dean and

Chapter of Wells, worth before the "troubles" 7 10

That it was mortgaged for 64 16

And this not being paid the property was forfeited.

(60). *R. C. P.*, 2nd series, vol. xxxiii., fols. 571—584.

(61). *Pat. Rolls*, 31st Eliz., part 7.

A messuage mortgaged to John Harvey for					
£150...	...	...	...	...	10 0
A copyhold in Chafcombe					
			...	...	5 0
Personal estate, goods and lumber					
			...	...	40 0

Took the Covenant at "Zacharies," 20th June, 1646.

With a pass from Sir Thos. Fairfax he went from Exeter to Chard, and had the benefit of the articles agreed to at the surrender of that city.

He petitioned that he lived in Chard, which lay subject to two several garrisons of contrary parties, viz., Taunton for the King, and Lyme for the Parliament; by reason whereof he was sometimes plundered on the one side and sometimes on the other, until at last he scarce had a bed left to lie upon. And having some friends in Exeter willing to relieve him he repaired thither and was residing there when it surrendered, for which he was sequestered. Forasmuch as he was never in arms against the Parliament, and had endured great losses, his house being spoiled and made uninhabitable; that he had taken the Covenant and Negative Oath; had been obedient to all commands and did advance money on the propositions of the Parliament, he humbly desired a reasonable composition for his enforced delinquency.⁶²

Harvey, John, Merchant, was sequestered "for that he voluntarily contributed to the maintenance of the King's forces; that he had lived in the King's quarters, and that he made rates and assisted against the Parliament."

He petitioned that at the beginning of these "unnatural wars" he voluntarily contributed money and sent in a "musqueteer" and horse to assist the Parliament. That he never bore arms, nor contributed directly or indirectly against the Parliament but what was forced from him. That the Marquis of Hertford and Sir Ralph Hopton defeating the Parliament force in the West, "on coming to Chard sent for him and three more to make a rate for the King, which they refused to

do, whereupon they were threatened to be plundered, sent to prison, and tyed head and heeles together." To avoid this they made the rate against their wills. He had repaired to Exeter and Dartmouth, where his trade and personal estate lay, where the Parliament ships had taken £770 worth of goods and part of a ship from him. He took the Covenant before the minister of "John Zacharies," 25th November, 1645, and the Negative Oath the same day, and begged, "to avoid all future trouble that he may have an easy composition." The property was in London and elsewhere, with a tenement in Chard, against which he set off £300, debts due to him, "all very uncertain, and may prove desperate."⁶³ His fine was fixed at £170.

Hertford, Marquis, had a quit-rent of five shillings in Chard.

Isaac, Saml., of Exeter, besides other property, in right of his wife owned a burgage and dwelling-house, held for three lives. His fine was £140.

Johnson, Peter, Gent., sent in his particulars, declaring that he was never sequestered nor impeached by the Parliament, nor engaged in the war; but "doubting that he might be lyable to sequestration for something said or done by him," he prayed to compound and receive the benefit thereof.

He held a tenement in Chard, "in the best	£	s
times" worth, per ann.	5	0
A rent for two lives, "both being very old," of	1	0
Owing to him from several persons	30	0
And he was indebted	191	0

His fine was £7 10s.

Pole, Courtenay, of Culleton, had the reversion of some cottages in Chard, on which he was fined £20.

Poulett, Lord, possessed the remains of a term of eight years of and in the Manor of Chard, and of certain lands and tenements belonging—held of the Bishop of Bath and Wells, at a yearly rent of £50. The advantage or profit was

only in granting copyhold as lives fell in. Lord Poulett's fine on his whole property would have been £10,432, but under the articles agreed to on the surrender of Exeter, it became reduced to £2,743.⁶⁴

Poulett, Lieut.-Col. Amias, a younger son of Lord Poulett, was seised of an estate in the parsonage of Chard, held from the Dean and Chapter of Wells at a rent of £40, and was worth over and above that £80. This return was apparently not exact as he found it advisable to send in another account, stating now that "upon a mere mistake," the rent payable to the Dean and Chapter was £24, and not £40. He was allowed to rectify, and was fined £120.

Poulett, Sir John, of Courtaweeke, Knt., was a Member of the Parliament, but having license to go into the country went to Oxford and sat in the "Assembly" there, but he declared that he was not present when the Parliament were voted Traitors. He had taken the Covenant, and prayed to compound on the particulars delivered. On the death of his father there would come to him in Chard the rectory and tithes, and the Manor and Borough of Chard held of the Church of Wells, the rent being yearly £67. The rectory of Chard, held for three lives, was worth yearly £80 for which £10 were paid, and there was a vicarage endowed worth £80. His fine altogether was £3,760 12s.⁶⁵

Pynce, Benj., Apothecary, and Thos. Pynce, his son and heir, were charged that they left their habitations in Chard and went to Exeter and lived there until the surrender, and received the benefit of the articles that their composition might not exceed two years' value of their estates.

To this they answered that for the "better exemption of his person" from those troubles and "sadd tymes" and for the exercise of his trade, he left Chard and repaired to Bridgwater, and afterwards for a like reason to Exeter. Out of charity he had used his best skill on divers soldiers of the

(64). *R. C. P.*, vol. xi. fol. 28.

(65). *R. C. P.*, vol. xi.

Parliament, without any payment. As he had lost all his goods and household stuff, having none left for necessary use, he prayed for clemency and declared he was not popish recusant nor popishly affected. In the particulars of the goods formerly at Bridgwater there are found, four nests of boxes, with small and great mortars; one hundred galley-pots with appurtenances, and one hundred glasses, with other materials belonging. The fine imposed was £46; the property in Chard being:—

A messuage, worth before the troubles, per annum	...	...	...	...	£	s	d
A tenement held for lives	...	...	...	...	6	13	4
Other goods and chattels	...	...	...	...	80	0	0

Against which there were debts £30.⁶⁶

Smith, Parris, of Combe, Gent., had household stuff in Chard value £20, and a tenement in Combe “taken from him by Symon Crymes to whom it was mortgaged.” A fine, as usual, was imposed, but the document concludes with the short memorandum “paid nothing.”⁶⁷

Notwithstanding that the war had been so long over, and these fines and other consequences endured, the partisans of the King now and again made a stir and showed signs of an activity which had to be suppressed. An episode of this sort occurred in 1655. The rising commenced in Wiltshire, where Mr. Mountparsons (Mompesson) and others, having met near Salisbury, secured the Judges then there on circuit, burned their commissions, and proclaimed Charles II King.⁶⁸ They then marched for Babylon Hill, by Yeovil, and then to Yeovil, where they stayed until Tuesday afternoon, 3rd April, when they left for Honiton. As they passed the postmaster of Crewkerne gave the alarm to Ilminster, reporting them near a thousand strong, although they were not three hundred, or,

(66). *R. C. P.*, 2nd series, vol. viii. fol. 768.

(67). *R. C. P.*, 2nd series, vol. xii. fol. 829.

(68). *Perfect Diurnal*, No. 277, 1655.

as one account says "not above a hundred and sixty." A party in Taunton was supposed to be aiding them, guided by Col. Francis Windham and Sir Hugh Windham, and here a force was assembled to check this intention. As the risers reached Chard, Col. Ceely resolved to "alarm" them from Taunton, but a dispute arose about the command and Ceely was stopped by the outguard and compelled to return: the difference was eventually arranged but the Col. then refused to move. The party consequently advanced unmolested until they were met and defeated near Honiton, sixty being taken prisoners to Exeter gaol where they received a "fixation," and thus the country was saved "from an old thing called a King." We have cause, wrote one, to acknowledge the goodness of God in dissipating those who assembled for the ruin of his people.

General Desborow was sent off into Somerset, where he learned of the defeat of the Tories, as the Somerset men called them, and writing from Wincanton he notified that he had consequently divided his force, sending some to Crooke-horne, some to South Petherton, some to Somerton, and a guard at Langport; also orders were issued for diligent enquiries as to what persons had been absent from their homes within the past ten days. At Wincanton two cavalier chaplains were caught, their horses and £32 in money taken from them, and they sent to gaol. On the 18th March, Gen. Desborow was at Chard, from whence he enclosed a letter he had received, in which the writer says that he had encountered a Scotchman, who had remarked that he hoped to see Mr. Cromwell—he refused to give him any title—in a lower condition before long. To which the writer replied that other countries were likely soon to know what Englishmen were, which "caused his spirit to be something abated."⁶⁹ Desborow next went on to Exeter, and then returned to Taunton, from whence he wrote to the Protector concerning the Somerset

party, "I doe understand that many of them doe pretend to innocency, as the Lord Paulet, and one Mr. Tent;" the information against them was nothing new or "late acting,"⁷⁰ although he was confident they knew of the rebellion. There were now a hundred and thirty-six prisoners in all, few however being Somerset men. Twenty-five were in Taunton, two in Ilchester, and the others at Exeter. The next business was their trial, in which Mr. Roger Hill was at first ordered to assist Edmund Prideaux, appointed Attorney-General in January. The business commenced at Exeter, where Francis Bennett of Killington, Somerset, Gent., was acquitted, as was also Wm. Strode of Wincanton, Gent.; several others were condemned, but not so many as was expected. The assize at Chard was first appointed for the 23rd April, afterwards altered to the 25th; but when the Exeter trials were over it was seen that not much of the principal business would remain to be "acted" in Somerset.⁷¹ The Attorney-General wrote, 21st April:—"We are upon our last bill here. Our work, I believe, will not be great at Chard, but what care is taken to have good jurymen there I know not. Justice Windham is expected to meet us there."⁷²

On Wednesday, 25th April, the commission was opened at Chard,⁷³ and on the same day Prideaux wrote to Secretary Thurloe:—

SIR,

We are come unto Chard and upon enquirie doubt we shall not be able to proceede against many of the prisoners heere, because, although we can prove them to have beene in armes in other places, yet in this county we cannot; they only past through this county and did not any notable actes; and were taken only by the country people as straglers, and were not taken in armes. But as against the chiefe we shall proceed and hope to have cleare evidence against them; and for the rest, we shall not give them an acquittal, but if hereafter they shall be thought fitt to have a proceeding against them, they may be removed to Salisbury, where it will be fullie

(70). *Thurloe State Papers*, vol. iii. fol. 308.

(71). *S. P. Dom.*, 1655, vol. xcvi. fol. 10. *Mercurius Politicus*, No. 1254.

(72). *Thurloe S. P.*, vol. iii. fol. 398. (73). *Perfect Diurnal*, April 30, 1655.

proved. It's here reported, the prisoners will petition to be banished and that the petition is draweing, but of this I have not any certointie, only twoe have this daie brought me a petition to that purpose. I desier you will deliver this letter to Mr. Serjeant Glyn, whoe will waite upon you for it. The Grand Jury is sworne but we are not soe confident of them as in the other countyes, therefore we begin only with Captain Hunt, against whom there is cleare evidence.

I am, your most humble servant,
Chard, April 25, 1655.⁷⁴ EDM. PRIDEAUX.

Captain Hunt and Major Clark of Wiltshire, the only prisoners of "eminence," were duly brought to trial. Major Clark was acquitted, an escape which one writer accepted with the quiet comment that "his estate was not great."⁷⁵ Capt. Thomas Hunt was condemned to be hanged, a sentence afterwards commuted to beheading, and to be imprisoned at Ilchester until his execution. Incarcerated there, it seemed that he was not placed in irons as he should have been, an oversight or indulgence which much facilitated his escape. On the 18th May, after about a week's imprisonment, there went off a hurried letter, signed John Carye and J. Barker, reporting that Mr. Hunt had escaped out of prison on Wednesday night, the 15th instant, by the assistance of his two sisters, Elizabeth and Margery, who came that evening to visit him. The letter says, "he went with Elizabeth in the woman's apparell of Margery through the watch; the other sister Margery lieth in his bedd that night and the escape of the prisoner not knowne till the next morninge, beinge Thursday, the day he was to be executed, the scaffold being up and all ready." A hue and cry was quickly abroad but Hunt was not found; the sisters were secured, and the pleasure of the authorities was asked concerning the gaoler. In the plans for this affair the ladies had been aided by a "Dr. of Physick," who on that day came to the prisoner and asked him how he felt. He replied that nothing "troubled him but his heart which was so big he could not stoop to death, fearing he should be a long time a dying." The doctor advised him to

(74). *Thurloe S. P.*, vol. iii. fol. 407. (75). *Faithful Scout*, 11th May, 1655.

“let blood” it being the only way to make his passage more easy, and accordingly Hunt bled himself, using his pen-knife, bleeding nearly “three quarts.” This must have made him pale and perhaps enabled him to pass better as a woman, for the same night his sisters came, having a horse and necessities within a mile of Chard (*i.e.*, Ilchester), and so got him safely away.⁷⁶

Seven others were condemned at Chard, five for treason and two for felony. Cromwell, who was always tender hearted and much disliked taking life on these occasions, now “abated” the usual drawing and quartering and ordered the executions to be by beheading or hanging only.⁷⁷

After this but little occurred for local notice, except an occasional dispute on the burning question of religion or religious differences. As the Presbyterian system, substituted for episcopacy by the solemn League and Covenant, amongst other unacceptable rules allowed no toleration for others, it never became thoroughly established, and soon had to bear with a strong nonconformity, dissenting brethren, the Independents. The preacher at Chard in 1651 was one Mr. Lye, who used his opportunities apparently to express political as well as religious opinions, thus bringing upon him the attentions of the Council of State. On the 18th Nov., the information against him was read at the Council, and a letter thereupon written to Col. Pyne to send for Lye and “tender the engagement” to him, and if he refused to take it, to “require him to depart out of Chard within ten days and not to come near it by ten miles, and not to preach within any market town in the county, without leave from the Parliament or Council.” Mr. Lye managed to satisfy Colonel Pyne and the Council, and so the order was cancelled and he was left at liberty to preach in Chard or any other place, as before the order.⁷⁸

(76). *Faithful Scout*, No. 229.

(77). *Perfect Diurnal*, No. 282.

(78). *S. P.*, 1651, vol. xvi.

As may be supposed, amidst so much excitement many new religious societies were formed. It was apparently in 1654 that those having similar views formed the first Baptist congregation in Chard, and the following document entire, dated 2nd Feb., 1654, *i.e.*, 1655, will perhaps make their position clear:—

To His Highness the Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland: with his Ho^{able} Counsell, the Humble Petition of the Congregation of Baptized Beleevers in and about Chard.

Humbly Sheweth,

That whereas your Petitioners for Conscience sake upon scripture grounds are separated from the Publike worshipp of this Nation and that hitherto no Provision hath been made in Law for our Place of Meeting, but it is left wholly in your Highnes's brest together with yo^r Ho^{able} Counsell in yo^r Clemency to grant us the Priviledge of a Place to Meet to worship the Lord in (neither of us haveing a house fitt). May it therefore please yo^r Highnes, wth yo^r Ho^{able} Counsell to give us leave by yo^r order to Meet in the Sheire Hall in Chard to the Godly ends aforesayd (it being vacant and unoccupied). And you will hereby further engage yo^r Humble Petitioners to Pray for yo^r Salvation by Jesus Christ, and for understanding hearts to go in and out before this great people That Peace Through Righteousness may flourish in yo^r dayes. So prayeth

Yo^r Humble Petitioners in all Duty to be Commanded

John Sprake
Robert Channon
George Stronge
Arthur Clarke
Constantin Dommett
John Legge
John Deane
John Dyer
John Hill

John Vyall
Richard Slape
William Gudge
John Jeffry
James Scriven
Roger Bryante
George Buridge
John Clementt
Th. Donne
John Stuckey⁷⁹

This Petition was considered at the Council, present with the others Col. Sydenham, and it was ordered that a letter be written to the Magistrates of Chard to recommend to them that the Petitioners be allowed the use of the Hall at such times when it was not required for the use of the Commonwealth. The letter was as follows:

Gentn,

It hath been represented to his Highnes the Lord Protector and his Councell by the petition of a Congregation of several persons under baptisme in and about yo^r Towne of Chard, That they are destitute of a convenient place to meet in for performance of their religious worship. And therefore they have been humble suitors, That they may be at liberty to make use of the Shire Hall there (being as they alledge vacant and unused) for the purpose aforesaid, which the Councell taking into consideration and being willing to give convenient accomodation to persons truly fearing God and expressing the same by an humble walking with him in wayes of piety, and by a sober and inoffensive conversation towards men in reference to Civil Peace. They have therefore thought fit to signifie to you their approbation of the Pet^{rs} request and doe hereby recommend it to you to permit them freely to make use of the said Hall for their religious exercises at such tymes when the public service of the County shall not otherwise dispose of it. Yo^r concurrence wherein will be very acceptable to the Councell.

To the Mayor and Burgesses of the Corporation of Chard.⁸⁰

So passed on the somewhat dull time of the Commonwealth, dull from the very regularity with which life was lived and every action done. During this time, in 1656, the Churchwardens ordered the royal arms to be removed from the church and defaced, for which work they paid one shilling and four pence. In 1657 five shillings were paid at the "proclayming ye Lord Protector, and in 1658 ten shillings were paid for proclaiming Richard, his son. In 1659 there comes a change and payment is recorded "for ringing on Thursday and Friday when the King's Majesty was proclaimed at London and when he was proclaimed here in the market." In 1660 the Churchwardens ordered the renewal of the royal arms in the church, and must have been surprised when they found that the man employed to remove them in 1656 had preserved them, for which he was rewarded with ten shillings. They were again removed some years later during some repairs, and so never reappeared. During this first year of his reign the King got a grant of £1,260,000, and the Mayor of Chard, as one of the mayors for the time being, was appointed a Commissioner for col-

(80). *S. P.*, Interregnum, v. 75 I, fol. 661.

lecting the borough contribution. Somerset paid altogether £2,722 4s. 6d.

But Chard, Puritan in religious feeling and Parliamentary in politics, was not especially thankful for the new royalty, and notwithstanding the apparent rejoicing the old opinions were still at work. In July, 1662, Mr. E. Phelipps was writing hurriedly to London that he had learned there was a great probability of an insurrection in or about Somersetshire and that there had been divers private meetings at one Trotter's, a phanatic parson about Thorncombe near Chard. Some of the Deputy Lieutenants had met at Keinton to consult, and, he adds, I fully believe there is some great design on foot, the chief actors being Pine, Bovett a Parliament colonel, and Whetham of the same. A little later he wrote that the soldiers called together were dismissed, but that some of those parties he had secured had acknowledged they were engaged in such a scheme and that they had invited others to join them.⁸¹

A knowledge that similar opinions were widely held and especially fostered in the towns, caused the King to endeavour with uniformity in religion, to force conformity in politics. By a statute for the well-governing of corporations, passed in the first year of his actual reign but the thirteenth as he called it dating from the death of his father in 1649, "to the end that such may be in the hands of persons well affected to his Majesty, it being well known that notwithstanding all his majesty's endeavours and unparalleled indulgences in pardoning all that is past, many evil spirits are still working;" it was ordered that all mayors, aldermen and others bearing any office in any corporation, should when called upon take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy and also as follows: "I, A. B., do declare and believe that it is not lawful upon any pretence whatsoever to take arms against the King, and that I do abhor that traitorous position of taking arms by his authority against his person or against those that are com-

missioned by him." Each had also to subscribe that: "I, A. B., do declare that I hold that there lies no obligation upon me or any other person from the oath commonly called the Solemn League and Covenant, and that the same was in itself an unlawful oath and imposed upon the subjects of this realm against the known laws and liberties of the kingdom." All who refused to comply were to be removed from office, and the Commissioners had power to remove those who did comply if they "deemed it expedient for the public safety," and to appoint others in the place of any so removed. No one was to be elected afterwards to any office unless he had received the Sacrament in the church, and taken these oaths besides any other usual upon his admission.

Writing from Montacute, 1st Nov., 1662, Mr. E. Phelipps, Junr., may tell in his own words the fate of Chard.

Wee went with our troop of horse on tuesday last from our quarters at Yeovill to the town of Chard, where the Commissioners for regulating Corporations mett, and divers others gentlemen and Deputy Lieutenants. After dinner wee went to the town hall and summoned the Maior and 12 aldermen and the other town officers before us, and after our commission was read wee tended the oaths and subscription to the Maior who took, but 10 of the aldermen refused and the other 2 were not present but left word they would refuse to, upon which and for some affronts these non-conformists gave to us wee bound them all to the good behaviour. Mr. Maior going, himselfe left a bond, subscribed a desire to the King to call in the Charter, there being not honest men enough in the towne to carry on the government, (and by the way had wee gon about to fill up the number Mr. Maior honestly was not so cleare to us as to have continued him.⁸²

Honest men here of course meant royalists or "Tories."

Thus ended the first actual charter, whose origin cannot be traced.

An idea of the unrest of this time may be gained from the fact that John Wallington of Chard was obliged to have a license allowing him to travel to London on his business.⁸³

The political feeling being perhaps supposed somewhat abated and differences overlooked, another Charter was granted

(82). *S. P.*, 1662, v. 62, 4.

(83). *S. P.*, 1664, v. 96, 91.

in 1683. It is a very long one, translated in full in Pulman's *Book of the Axe*, and recites that the inhabitants, giving the King to understand that the previous Charter had been "forfeited" by reason of divers misdemeanours and offences in violation of an Act of the 13th of his reign and that they supplicated to be restored and made a body corporate, he granted their request. It concedes three fairs; the first on St. James's day, the second on the 2nd Nov., and the third on the 3rd May, instead of that held on the 1st May. The market was to be on Tuesday instead of on Monday for heavy goods and cattle, with other markets on Thursday and Saturday weekly for provisions, &c. There is also the right to hold a court of Pie-powder during the fairs.⁸⁴

This charter was evidently promoted by one political party, the "Tories," who would be represented by Lord Poulet, in opposition to the others and the Nonconformists and the differences thereon led to a curious state of affairs, as the one party, the Nonconformists in possession, adhered to their old system under a Portreve and declined to be superseded, whilst the others set up the new Charter, and so the two rival Corporations were actually existing at the same time. Soon after granting this Charter, Charles died; Chard did not congratulate the new King on his accession.

The next incident is the insurrection attempted under the Duke of Monmouth. The Duke, as is well known, made a visit to Somerset in 1680, and on that occasion arrived at Chard on the 27th August, accompanied by five hundred horsemen. Within the town, says the little tract recording the event, he was met by a crowd of men, women and children, not a mute amongst them, but all deaf with their own cries and acclamations; scarce was there one who drank not his health with vollies of God bless' the King and God bless the Protestant Duke his son. A collation was presented to him "of great variety and excellence, the second course being the

hearts and tongues" of the numerous people, and in the evening he was received and lodged by Esq. Prideaux. Coming on his next and fatal visit to Somerset he landed at Lyme early in June, 1685, with about a hundred and fifty followers, this event being quickly notified by express from the mayor. Troops were at once sent off under Lord Churchill who arrived at Chard on the 19th. Hearing of a party near, a lieutenant with twenty men and a quartermaster went out in search of them and coming up with about their own number (only twenty) two miles from Taunton, they charged in and killed twelve on the spot and wounded most of the remainder; then perceiving another party advancing they thought fit to retire, with the loss of the lieutenant, shot in the head mortally, and three others wounded. The story of Monmouth's rebellion and that of the Jefferey executions which followed it, have been told frequently and need not be repeated. In 1686, 10th March, came out a proclamation of a general pardon, among the exceptions being Lawrence French of Chard. Also Commissioners were appointed to deal with forfeited estates and sell them to the best "chapmen:" they sat on Thursday, 21st July, 1687, at the George Inn, Wells; on the 11th August, at the Castle Tavern, Taunton; on the 18th August, at the Cornish "Chaugh," Chard; and on the 23rd August, at the Lyon, Somerton.⁸⁵

But King James, not heeding this attempt of Monmouth, proceeded to govern in his own way by proclamation, without the sanction of Parliament, thus creating widespread discontent, and eventually he completed his isolation by avowing himself a papist. To relieve his co-religionists, who, with other non-conformists, suffered under heavy disabilities, he issued a Declaration of Liberty of Conscience; his idea being that the Protestant Nonconformists would readily accept it, and so by this means the Papists would also be relieved: but it happened that besides declining to be relieved in such company

(85). *London Gazette*, 11—14 July, 1687.

they also refused to accept a relief so clearly illegal. Every effort was made to get the country districts to send up addresses of thanks for this extraordinary favour—this “transcendant goodness in relieving the deplorable state of the Dissenting interest.” Very few were induced to do so. It was long before anything came from Chard—so long, that it seemed as if none would come; and then it will be seen it combined, with the hope that a Parliament may enact the Declaration into a law; a sly knock at the Mayor, who, with all Churchmen would be opposed to the whole scheme, and whose expressions would have savoured probably of anything but thanks.

To the King’s Most Excellent Majesty.

We Your Majesties most Loyal and most Dutiful Subjects, the Portreeve, Burgesses, Principal Freeholders and others the Inhabitants of Your Majesties Borough of Chard in the County of Somerset, being weary with waiting to see an Address from the Corporation of Mayor and Justice, &c., in the said Borough, presume now to present Your Majesty with this our following humble Address the 22nd of October, 1687.

GREAT SIR,

The good Effects that your Majesties most Gracious Declaration hath had both on the Persons and Estates of your Majesties Subjects are so Visible, that none can or dare deny the good Influence thereof, but such as are biassed by a Principle of Disloyalty towards their Prince, and Malice towards their Fellow Subjects; and therefore, for our parts, (though we know your Majesty to be far above our acknowledgements, or Promises, yet) reflecting upon the Egypt your Majesties Tender-Conscienced Subjects were in, the cruel Task-Masters they served under, and possessing the Canaan you have been pleased to conduct them to, we cannot suffer the Heathen to upbraid us, from whom we have it as a Maxim, *Si ingratum dixeris, omnia dixeris*. But we presume to lay our selves down at your Majesties Feet, rendering our most unfeigned Thanks for your Majesties most Gracious Declaration of Liberty of Conscience, promising all faithful Loyalty, and our utmost Endeavours in the several Stations and Capacities in which God hath set us under our Sovereign, that there shall be such Representatives Elected, (whenever it shall be your Royal Pleasure to call a Parliament,) as shall answer your Expectation, Remove both the Penal Laws and Test, and Enact your Kingly Declaration into a perpetual Law; To which we heartily add

God save the King, and say, Amen.

James soon discovered that all this was well understood and that one illegal act begat the necessity for others. Announcing his intention of maintaining the Declaration, he "reviewed" the list of deputy lieutenants and justices in the several counties that those only should be continued who were ready to assist him; and then to reduce the boroughs pretending (11th Oct.) to have had complaints of abuses in corporations he authorised the Lord Lieutenants "to inform themselves thereon and report." But not waiting for any reports, on the 17th October, 1688, he announced by Proclamation, that whereas in the charters of several cities power was reserved to him to remove or displace the mayors and other members, all those who claimed office by any charter granted from the late King or since 1679, should be removed and displaced in pursuance of these powers so reserved. This had it been carried out would have affected Chard, but the King found he had attempted too much. Before any surrenders had been enrolled, this Proclamation was followed by another restoring to all corporations their ancient liberties and declaring all surrenders cancelled. All too late; he was doomed; great was the feeling of relief when the Prince of Orange landed at Brixham on 5th November. Forthwith came out a Proclamation declaring against such an unchristian invasion, and especially since the ancient rights had been "actually" restored to all boroughs and corporations, so that a Parliament could be freely chosen. All too late. The Prince as he advanced omitted the Church prayer for the King, substituting one by Burnet for himself, so that says the Gazette noticing this, the King was now left out both by churchmen and dissenters. In December he fled, and in due time William reigned in his stead.

To the old differences in Chard between Portreve and Mayor, was now added this one of the Charter, the old Portreve party asserting that it was cancelled and that they were therefore the only real thing, whilst the others declared, and very truly, that it had never been either surrendered or can-

celled and that it was in full force as ever. But their opponents held out, notwithstanding that Lord Poulet got the Charter exemplified, and in 1704, according to Collinson, they were attacking the Tuesday market as against their old original Monday. The local documents relating to this time do not exist, an occasional one met with however will be found signed as by the Mayor, appointed perhaps by the influence of Lord Poulet; but the other party proved the stronger and took the lead, so that when the two eventually merged, not long probably after this date, and the charter was accepted by both, the Portreve style was retained, and was in use at the time of the Municipal Corporations return of 1835. At some time since then the Portreve disappeared and now Chard boasts a chief who is very properly called the Mayor.

The Brett Family.

BY REV. FREDERICK BROWN, M.A., F.S.A.

THE early history of the Brett family, of White Staunton, is somewhat difficult to elucidate. There can be little doubt that they were descended from the family which gave its name to the parish of Sampford Brett near Williton, and for many generations they held the manor of Thorncombe, in the parish of Bicknoller, which adjoins Sampford Brett. They also held the manor of Pillond, in the parish of Pilton, Devon, near Barnstaple, and two brasses still exist in Pilton Church, one to the memory of Alexander Brett, Esq., who died July 14, 1536, another to Robert Brett, Esq., who died Sept. 22, 1540. This manor was sold to Dr. Wolton, Bishop of Exeter, in the reign of Elizabeth.

A Brett, probably in early times, married a Staunton heiress, but the earliest record that I have met with in reference to White Staunton Manor House is the will of a John Huggyn of White Staunton, dated 1483, which is recited at length, in English, in an Inquisition p. m., dated 1492, in which he requests his feoffees at his decease "to suffer Johan, my wife, to have the occupacion of all the Howsyng above the weste end of the Hall of White Staunton, and the occupacion of the old stable, the kechyn and bakehouse to make her mete, to brewe and to bake as oftyn tymes as nede requireth, with sufficient fewell of underwoode to be had within the Parke of White Staunton, with free comyng ynne and owte to all the foresaid atte all tymys whilst she lyveth soule and unmarried without any interrupcion of myne heyres. Also that my said ffeffes, att my discesse, shall suffer John,

my son and heyre apparent, to have the occupacion of all the residewe of all the said Manor of White Staunton with his appurtenances, yelding and payynge yerly thereof to my said wife, whyls she levyth soule, x marks at iiii times usuall by evyn porcions."

John Huggyn then speaks of his "lands in Briggewater, North Pederton, Bokeland St. Mary, Halle in the parish of Charde, Somerset, and other lands in Dorset, out of which his feoffees are to find 'sustentacion' for his sons Walter and Gyles, then under age, and he directs them 'when that Walter ys of age of xxi yeres, to make a state' of these lands to Walter and Elizabeth, the daughter of John Brytt, late of Thorncombe Manor, whom, by the grace of God, the said Walter shall have to wiffe."

It is impossible to trace out the connection between the Huggyns and the Bretts. I have examined all the Inquisitions post mortem now extant, but I have failed to make out a reliable pedigree. There was a John Brett, Esq., of South Petherton, who married Isabel Walrond, and whose will, in Latin, was proved June 23, 1532. He died issueless, but he bequeaths "to John Walrond 200 sheep in White Staunton, and all his utensils in the capital mansion of White Staunton."

One branch of the White Staunton Bretts settled in London. Robert Brett was a Merchant Taylor, and evidently a man of great wealth. He married Elizabeth Highgate of Essex, and by her had many children. In his will, proved April 26, 1586, he bequeaths "to Mr. John Brett of Whyte Staunton, Somerset, Esq., a ringe of gold of one ounce weight, with a deaths head and two letters graven therein for my name." He was buried in St. Augustine's, London, April 15, 1586. The will of his relict, Elizabeth Brett, was proved by John Brett, her son, October 17, 1599. She bequeaths many valuable legacies to all her children, except to her daughter Katherine, to whom she leaves only "a black gowne." The reason for this difference I discovered in some

curious Chancery Proceedings taken in 1600, by Richard Leigh, citizen and Merchant Taylor, against John Brett, the executor of his father, in which he claimed a share in the legacies of John Brett, senior, "as the husband of Katherine." And John Brett says in reply, that Richard Leigh was an apprentice to his father, and "knowing Catherine's fortune, and that she was very young and easily to be seduced, he sought to obtain her good will, and feed a maid servant in her mother's house, and did, in the absence of her mother, most undutifully and ungodly steal away Katherine and marry her contrary to the wishes of her mother and family, and for that reason Elizabeth Brett only gave a black gowne to her daughter Catherine."

Robert Brett, Merchant Taylor, had four sons. The eldest, Sir John Brett, Kt., of Edmonton, was buried at St. Augustine's, February 3, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$. He had one son, Owen Brett, of Rowney, Beds, a Royalist, who died 1658, issueless, and five daughters, who all married and had children.

His second son, William Brett, Esq., of Toddington, Beds, had many sons, whom I cannot trace. One of them, however, was Sir Edward Brett, Kt., born 1608. He married Barbara, only daughter of Sir John Fleming, Kt. This Edward Brett was knighted by Charles I at the battle of Lostwithiel, Cornwall, Aug. 31, 1644. He had gallantly, in view of the King, charged the Parliamentary forces, and "received a shott in his left arm, and having brought his men off, retreated to be drest, when the King called him and took his sword which was drawn in his hand, and knighted him on his horse's back." Sir Edward Brett died, s.p., aged 75, Feb. 12, 168 $\frac{2}{3}$, and is buried in Bexley Church, Kent, where there is an elaborate monumental inscription, recording his military services in behalf of King Charles, and afterwards in the Netherlands, under William, then Prince of Orange. The third son of Robert Brett, Merchant Taylor, was Dr. Richard Brett, a very learned man, Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford, and one of the translators of the authorised version of the Bible. He

was Rector of Quainton, Bucks, where he was buried April 18, 1637. There is a long epitaph to him in Quainton Church, in Latin, with effigies of himself, wife and children. It concludes with these quaint lines in English—

Instead of weeping marble, weep for him,
All ye his flock, whom he did strive to win
To Christ—to Lyfe;—so shall you duly sett
The most desired store on Dr. Brett.

In his will, he mentions his books and their titles—they were wonderfully few in number for such an eminent biblical scholar. To his son, Sparke, he bequeaths, “my dors skerlett,” which, I conjecture, means his D.D. scarlet hood. He married Alice, daughter of Richard Browne, sometime Mayor of Oxford. They had four daughters only, one of these married Humphrey Chambers, a puritan Divine, rector of Claverton, Somerset; another married Calibut Downing, vicar of Hackney, Middlesex.

I now return to the owners of White Staunton Manor. John Brett, Esq., was High Sheriff of Somerset, 1579. He married Margaret Ratcliff, relict of John Ackland, Esq. She died Feb. 22, 1582 $\frac{2}{3}$, and there is a monumental inscription to her in the church. His will was proved April 30, 1589. He desires “to be buried in the southest part of the south Ile, which Ile is to be enlarged in that respect, my son and heir to enlarge the same in such order as I have directed, being so written by mine own hand, if I myself in my lifetime do not enlarge the south Ile, which by the help of God, I, livinge, doe mind to do.” He speaks also of “my grandmother, Thomasine Brytt, of Pillond, Devon.

John Brett, Esq., had six children. One of his daughters, Mary, married Christopher Morgan, Esq., of Maperton, Dorset. She died Jan. 4, 1582 $\frac{2}{3}$, and there is an inscription to her memory in White Staunton Church. He married secondly, Ann Bampfield, and his will was proved by his relict, Ann Morgan, Feb. 20, 1590. Another daughter, Ellinor Brett,

married Nicholas Fry, Esq., of Yearty, Devon, whose will was proved Feb. 7, 163 $\frac{2}{3}$. She predeceased him.

One of his sons, Sir Robert Brett, Kt., was of West Malling, Kent, Gentleman Usher of H.M. Privy Chamber and King's Sergeant. He died Sept. 1, 1620, and there is a monument to him in West Malling church. His first wife was Frances Fane. His second wife was Ann Meredith, who afterwards became the wife of Francis Lord Cottington, one of the chief ministers and advisers of Charles I. He was a Roman Catholic. He died at Valladolid, in Spain, June 19, 1652, aged 74. There is a large monument to him in the Chapel of St. Paul in Westminster Abbey.

The eldest son of John Brett, Esq., was Sir Alexander Brett, Kt., knighted at Beddington, Surrey, 1603. He died 1609. His first wife was Ann Morgan, relict of Nicholas Turberville, Esq., who was murdered by his brother-in-law, John Morgan, Esq., for which murder John Morgan was attainted and executed at Wells, January 23, 22nd Elizabeth.

The second wife of Sir Alexander Brett was Ann Gifford, daughter of John Gifford, of Weston-under-edge, Gloucestershire, by Elizabeth, daughter of Sir George Throckmorton, of Coughton. I think it was through this alliance that Sir Walter Raleigh, who married Elizabeth Throckmorton, speaks so often in his correspondence of "my cousin, Sir Alexander Brett." Sir Alexander became one of the trustees for Lady Raleigh. The Giffords were a Roman Catholic family, and Lady Ann Brett was heavily fined for her recusancy in 1610. Sir Alexander Brett died 1609. Lady Ann, his relict, died at Leigh, Surrey, June 20, 1647.¹

(1). *State Papers*, Charles I, Nov. 28, 1625. Amongst the recusants disarmed within the county of Somerset:—"The Ladie Anne Brett of Whitstaunton, Somerset, widow, a popish recusant—one compleat armour with a launce for a greate horse, one other armour for a lighte horse, three corsletts complete, wanting one vambrace, and another wanting pouldrons, tacks, and vambraces; one targett of prooffe, one brest plate for a launce, one bastard muskett, one calliver, one pistol with a firelocke, one flaske and tutch box, six halberds, twelve poleaxes, one old battle axe, twelve bills, whereof one wanting a staff, three coats of mayle, one buckler, and three old hed pieces. Given to the custodye of John Poulett, Esq., and are all old armes."

They had several children, one of them, Robert Brett, became Prior of the Benedictines on the continent, and died Aug. 12, 1665, aged 68. One of the daughters, Elizabeth Brett, married Sir Humphry Lynde, Kt., another Mary Brett, married Edward Cotton, Esq., and another, Ann Brett, married Edward Keynes, of Compton Pauncefoot; both of the latter gentlemen were Roman Catholic recusants. The eventual heir of Sir Alexander Brett, Kt. (for his eldest son, John Brett, died young), was Alexander Brett, Esq., of White Staunton, aged 25 at his brother's death. He died intestate, Aug. 15, 1617, having married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William Kirkham, Kt., of Blagdon, Devon, a Roman Catholic recusant. They were the parents of Sir Robert Brett, Kt., the royalist and "papist in arms," born 1615. His property was sequestered, and there is much about him in the Royalist Composition Papers. He seems to have been a hot-headed and turbulent man, and got into all sorts of trouble.

His first wife was Mary, daughter of Richard White, Esq., of Hutton, Essex. She died February, 165⁸/₉. He married secondly, about 1664, Ursula Watkins. She was buried at Hampstead, Middlesex, March 31, 1671, but in her will she leaves no legacy to any Brett. She was evidently a Roman Catholic.

The following account is extracted from some Chancery Proceedings, which took place 1669 and 1670. It seems that £4000 had been settled by deed, 12th Charles I, on the younger children of Sir Robert Brett by his first wife, to be raised out of the White Staunton estate, the trustees being Benjamin Weston and Edmund Plowden, Esqrs. This sum Sir Robert Brett had neglected or refused to raise, much to the detriment of his younger children. His eldest son, Alexander Brett, took the part of his brothers and sisters, whereupon Sir Robert Brett, his father, behaved most unkindly to him, and "did force him to shift for himself," and apparently turned him

out of the Manor House, and gave him an allowance only of £12 10s., and refused to provide for his other children.

Alexander Brett then "importuned the Trustees," and they brought an action of trespass and ejectment in the King's Bench, 16th Charles II, which succeeded, and they were put in possession of the Manor House by the Sheriff of Somerset. In some depositions taken at Chard, Nov. 2, 1669, and Sept. 20, 1670, William Trot gave evidence that when he was living with Sir Robert Brett, as servant, "he did by order of his master, shut and make fast the door of the Mansion House at such time as they noticed that the Sheriff of Somerset was coming to deliver the possession of the House" to the trustees, and "that the Sheriff's Officers were forced to break open two doors of the said Mansion House, before possession could be had thereof." He also deposed that "the goods which were in the House were turned out, and were taken away by Sir Robert Brett, and the best of them were conveyed to the house of Mr. Hussey, of Hilton, Dorset, and the rest of them were disposed of to several persons for moneys owing to them, being Sir Robert's debts, and others for ready money, the chief writings being carried away to London."

Evidence was also given that Alexander Brett had to the best of his ability provided for his brothers and sisters. Mary Brett, his sister, "was buried at his expense." Richard and Adam, his brothers, "were maintained at Crewkerne, and there tabled and kept at school at his charges for a year and half, at £11 12s. each, besides what it cost him for their apparel." Afterwards "he placed his brother, Adam Brett, an apprentice in London to a linen draper," and afterwards provided for him, "and Richard Brett is maintained since he came from school by Alexander in meat, drinke, apparell, and washing, worth £17 or £18 a year."

In a suit which Lady Ursula Brett brought in Chancery against the then trustees for her dower out of White Staunton, they having denied the validity of her marriage, and so of

any deed of dower, many depositions were taken in 1669 at Chard, and from that of the aforesaid William Trot, we learn the circumstances of this second marriage of Sir Robert Brett. He says "he was present when Sir Robert Brett was married to the complainant, who had lived in the nature of a servant upon Mary, the late daughter of Sir Robert, while the said Mary lived with Robert Hussey, Esq., at Hilton, Dorset. They were married in the White Harte Inne in the town of Hindon, Wilts, about four or five years since, this deponent and one Mr. Robert Hussey of Hilton, and several others, being then and there present—that they were so married, as this deponent was informed, by one Gowin, but he was not in the habit of a clergyman or minister, but he did hold a book in his hand, but what book this deponent knoweth not, and used such words, expressions and ceremonies as are usual in marriages within the Church of England, but whether the said Mr. Gowin was a person in ecclesiastical orders according to the laws of the Church of England, this deponent knoweth not, but believes the contrary, neither doth he know where he then, or yet doth live."

So that this second marriage of Sir Robert Brett's was a very clandestine affair, most likely celebrated by a Roman Catholic priest, and so it came to pass that "Lady Ursula Brett, widow, relict of Sir Robert Brett, Kt., late of White Staunton, Somerset, deceased," as she styles herself in her will, ignored the children of the first wife.

Sir Robert Brett, Kt., died August, 1666, most likely on the continent. There is no will of his or administration.

I have followed out all his children, except Richard and Adam, above-mentioned. One of his sons, Robert Brett, became a Jesuit, and died at St. Omer, Nov. 3, 1678. His eldest son, Alexander Brett, born 1633, was buried in White Staunton Church, having died July 1, 1671, s.p. He married at St. Paul's, Covent Garden, Middlesex, in 1657, Mrs. Elizabeth Dickenson, widow, born 1634. She was certainly a

Brett by birth, but I have been unable to discover her parentage, and can only suggest that she was of the Bretts, of Toddington, Beds. She married, secondly, in 1674, Dr. Henry Klee, Doctor of Medicine, bachelor, aged 42, she being about 40. He was buried at St. Paul's, Covent Garden, July 8, 1677.

On the death of Alexander Brett, s.p., his brother, Robert Brett, inherited White Staunton, but he had become a Jesuit Father. He is mentioned in Foley's *Record of the Jesuits*, vol. v. 101, as being mixed up in "the Popish Plot." He is called "Sir Robert Bret, Bart.," but that is a mistake. He died probably at St. Omer, whither he managed to escape, having according to an indenture in the Close Rolls, dated Dec. 2, 1673, conveyed "for a competent sum of money," the whole of the White Staunton property and lands in Winsham, &c., "to Elizabeth Brett, widow of Alexander Brett, Esq., of White Staunton, Somerset."

Mrs. Elizabeth Klee thus became Lady of the Manor, and she was buried as such at White Staunton, Dec. 30, 1713, s.p.

She had two brothers: one Richard Brett, Esq., of Richmond, Surrey, where he was buried 1689. He was a man of great wealth, and high in favour with Charles II. He married Lady Catherine Boyle, by whom he had two daughters, heiresses—Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Dacres, Esq., and Margaret, wife of Charles Bludworth, Esq.

Her other brother was Robert Brett of London, who died 1704, leaving a daughter Ann Brett, who married a Henry Brett, but I know not who he was. All that is known is that Mrs. Elizabeth Klee, by deed, April 24, 1697, conveyed all her estates to trustees for the uses of "her nephew and niece, Henry Brett, Esq., of White Staunton, and Ann, his wife, and unto Alexander Brett, their son and heir apparent." And in another deed, May 24, 1718, Henry Brett, Esq., is described as the executor of the will of Mrs. Elizabeth Klee, but no such will can be found in any Probate Court.

Henry Brett sold the Manor of White Staunton, with other lands, to Sir Abraham Elton, for £11,642. He was buried at White Staunton, Jan. 6, 172^g, and his widow, Ann Brett, March 20, 1749. They had eleven children, the baptisms of all of them but one are recorded in the registers. Their eldest daughter, Elizabeth Brett, married Feb. 14, 17¹⁶/₁₇, John Long, mercer, of Taunton, and all the others were buried at White Staunton, except Alexander, born 1695, Ann, born 1697, and Margaret, born 1708, of whose subsequent history I know nothing.

I would merely add that the Sir Alexander Brett, Kt., who took part in Sir Thomas Wyatt's rebellion, and who was executed as a traitor in 1554, was not, I think, in any way connected with the Somerset Bretts, as he was specially condemned to suffer at Rochester or Maidstone. There were many families of the name of Brett in Kent.

West Monkton Charter.

BY F. H. DICKINSON.

EARLY in last year I saw at Longleat a paper register relating to West Monkton. There was a good deal in it about Bathpool, and a reference at fol. 91-2 to the Leper's House, the little Hospital just beyond where the turnpike used to be east of Taunton on the left, "quæ sita est super feodum prædictorum Abbatis et Conventus extra Capellam Beatae Margaretæ Tauntoniæ." The MS. seemed dreary enough, but just at the end at fol. 129, I found the Charter which purports to be the first grant of West Monkton to Glastonbury. No charters relating to West Monkton occur in any of the chartularies that I have seen. This book supplies the deficiency. I had formerly thought that the silence of the Glastonbury records concerning this and other manors held by homage under the Abbey, which is general but not universal, was evidence of the spurious character of the charters, because it might be supposed that the monks had made the charters which concerned the possessions they knew to belong to them and from which they received income, and neglected the rest which belonged to the tenants; but this would be a hasty judgment. The charters we have come principally from Lord Bath's Chartulary, of which the MS. at Oxford is a copy, with possibly some alterations, and in the Bodleian catalogue is marked Wood 1, having belonged to the antiquary Wood. They related of course to the lands held by the Abbey, principally to those in their own power, their domain in each lordship and the land from which they had rents, and the still more valuable renewal fines of the leases.

These books are no evidence that charters which are not copied out in them did not exist, they merely show that what

was not copied out was not supposed to be of primary importance. There is no chapter in Lord Bath's chartulary referring to West Monkton in that part of it which gives the charters in detail. Why it is not in that MS. I do not know. West Monkton is not noticed in the book of H. de Soliaco of 1189, lately printed by Lord Bath, to whom it belongs, but as that book is not perfect it may have been contained in the missing parts. According to Exon Domesday, as given by Mr. Eyton, the whole seems to have been held in homage. The Exchequer Domesday states that twelve hides and a half out of the fifteen were in homage. I cannot account for the difference, which Mr. Eyton does not notice, apparently assuming the figures to be the same, and I suspect some blunder, for Domesday puts no value on the two hides and a half which it represents the Abbot to have in hand. At the time of the Reformation the receipts for this manor were £62 8s. 0½d., which is I fancy below the average, but still large enough to be not easily made to agree with what has just been stated, because land in homage was unproductive to the lord, or produced very small quit rents. The following is a copy of the charter from the MS.:—

Folio 129.

Carta Centwyny Regis de Cantucundu nunc West Monkton juxta Tantoniam.

✠¹ Omnia que videntur temporalia sunt. que non videntur eterna sunt. Ideo parvis et vilibus rebus eterna et mansura jugiter mercanda sunt. Qua propter ego Centwini Saxonum Rex pro remedio anime meo aliquam porcionem Hamegilso (Haëgilso) Abbati ad supplementum vite regularis in monasterio Glastingabirg sub divini timoris instinctu humiliter largitus sum. hoc est viginti tres mansiones in loco juxta silvam famosam que dicitur cantucundu habentes ad Austrum fluvium qui dicitur Tan ad aquilonem vero silve prefate partem non modicam ad se trahens usque ad vallem helsdena deinde per rivulum unum usque ad vadum quod dicitur weala ford et sic

(1). The initial O has a cross drawn in it.

in directione illius rivuli usque ad Tanis alveum. Habent vero ad occasum fontem qui dicitur ealduuylle deinde alterum fontem qui dicitur acuuylle; ab illo fonte ad locum qui dicitur haeg stal descumb et per viam que dicitur hrycuueg (Ridgeway). Ab hac via ad riulum qui appellatur Segbroc ab hoc rivulo vergit territorium ad zephyrum ad alveum prefati fluminis Tan. In locum qui dicitur horspol. Et tres cassatos in Australi parte amnis Tan ad insulam juxta collem qui dicitur brettannic a lingua cructan apud nos cryc beorh. Et hec pars telluris evidentissimus (is) cingitur limitibus, habet enim ab Austro blacan broc ab aquilone Tan Anno ab incarnatione domini nostri Jesu Christi delxxxii Indictione x hoc prefatum donum. Sic prefigimus, ut Immobile quam diu cristianitas vigeat in servicio glæstingensis ællesie permaneat. Si quis hanc donationis carticulam violenter invadere temptaverit noverit proculdubio culpam sacrilegii se incurrisse. hujusque ligamine se constructum () donec divini examinis conspectui conp'sentetur (conpresentetur) ni prius hoc inorme scelus detergendo emaculet; et augeat omnipotens deus hoc donum augenti vitam æternam per omnia secula seculorum. Amen + ego hæddi episcopus consenciens signum sancte crucis impressi + signum manus centuuiui regis hanc munificentiam signo crucis perstringentis + ego Aldhelm hanc scedulam scripsi et subscripsi.

If this were the charter really granted by Centwin the boundaries must have been—if there were any—in the British language: they are altogether in English, except that Bathpool hill has its British name as well as the new name in the language of the conquerors. It would seem therefore that the document was put into its present shape before the British and their language were altogether forgotten. The indiction is right, and there seems nothing amiss about the signatures. Hæddi seems to have been bishop from 676 to after 705, first at Dorchester in Oxfordshire and after 678 at Winchester.

Aldhelm was made Bishop of Sherborne in 705. He is not

here named as bishop, but is stated to have been the writer of this deed.² He died at Doultling in 709, aged about 70.

It may be well to remark that when a charter was copied into a chartulary and no boundaries were specified in the deed, or when the boundaries were archaic, it is no evidence of forgery that boundaries were supplied from a contemporaneous perambulation. We may therefore say that there is no plain internal evidence that this charter is false, unless it be in the reference to the *Vita Regularis* the use of the word cassates, and the large number of these; so we must look to the history.³

Adam of Domerham, 1, p. 97, says that Kenwin gave Monkton to Glastonbury, and also that in 678 he gave a liberty to Glastonbury, which we may suppose to be intended to mean that of the twelve hides. However that may be, we have a transaction between him and the Abbey in the nature of a grant or treaty four years before the grant we are now concerned with. According to *Bede*, B. 4, C. 12, Coinvalch died in 674, and his widow Sexburgh succeeded him, who was Queen for one year, and then the subreguli took the kingdom for about 10 years until Caedwalla became King for 2 years, in 686. The interval is left in a state of obscurity, and it seems probable that Kentwin was one of the under kings, and not incredible that he should have transactions with Glastonbury in 678 and 682.

It cannot be supposed that the liberty of the twelve hides

(2). The King's adviser, no doubt, what in later times became the Lord Chancellor. He seems to have been a very good man, an ecclesiastic of eminence, and for those times very learned, and a member of the Royal Family, just the person to exercise enormous influence for good over these rough conquerors.

(3). The Charter of Ine in 706 (probably rather than 705), in our Museum which is a copy, if genuine, of an older one, gives but 20 cassates to West Monkton, which I suppose to be meant by the place near the river called Tan, the other places are 20 cassates on Polden Hill, 20 cassates on each side of Doultling stream, which answers to Pilton and Shepton, and 5 cassates at Croscombe, in all 65 cassates. The Pilton part does not seem to me to correspond with the charters given in Dugdale and the Codex. *William of Malmesbury*, p. 308, seems to agree with the Longleat MS., and so it would seem does a MS. in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford, which is said to be of William of Malmesbury, but I suspect to be Adam of Domerham.

was granted so early, though one need not blame the monks much if they in after times strove to date back their jurisdiction to this early time. We may suppose that the charter of liberties was more likely a capitulation of the British monks to their now Christian conquerors, which did give them valuable rights and liberties, which saved the holy place from devastation, and possibly put them into a position to intercede for their countrymen, and make the inevitable conquest less dreadful than the events which had preceded it.

The chronicle and the other authorities state that in 682 Centwine drove the Bretwealas to the sea, and of this fact there is no doubt, though the place is not certain, for Florence of Worcester and Geoffry of Gaimar say that they were the West Brits, while William of Malmesbury in his *Life of Aldhelm*, *Scriptores* xx., v. 2, p. 349, says that Kentwine's affair was with the North Welsh which would mean driving them to the sea in what is now Cheshire. The older authorities are ambiguous.

I do not know enough to presume to give an opinion whether Florence or William be the greater authority. If the latter, who was a Somerset man and magnified Glastonbury, had been able to bring Centwine's conquest down into these western parts, he would doubtless have done so, especially when relating the history of Aldhelm, a western celebrity.

At p. 43 of our *Transactions* for 1872, Mr. Freeman, following Florence, gives reasons for thinking that this victory must have resulted in Centwine obtaining possession of the land between Quantock and the sea and perhaps beyond, and it seems quite reasonable that those who had command of Polden Hill, and therefore of the Bristol Channel, should extend their ravages further west and gradually conquer the coast, especially if, as Dr. Guest taught us, they had already held possession of Mendip for many years. The land round Glastonbury and on the lower courses of the Cary, Parrett, and Tone, must have been under water after the Roman drainage

had gone to ruin,⁴ and except where the tide came, would be an impassible thicket: and in these times, as afterwards in those of Alfred, would be most difficult for an invader. Glastonbury had been defended on the only accessible side, towards Pennard on the east, by the great earthwork named Ponter's Ball in the Ordnance Map, the passage through which is still called Havyat, possibly half way gate, as being half way between Glastonbury and Pennard.

Nearly in a line with this is a similar earthwork in Butleigh Wood ending southwards on a combe at the head of Sedgemoor. This earthwork, if prolonged for a mile to the low ground on the north of Butleigh, would protect Polden Hill. When this barrier was forced the conquerors would readily extend their power to Pawlett and cross the estuary of the Parrett at Comwich.

Our rivers and drains have been for ages annually cleaned, the weeds cut, and the principal water course made as much of as possible, both for drainage and navigation, and we cannot easily get an idea of the state of things on the line of coast where the tide met the fresh water outlets when all was in a state of nature. In winter and wet weather the fresh water would accumulate in the low grounds, and there would be but little that this fresh water could do to help the scour of the ebbing tide, it is likely therefore that the channels between the fresh water and the salt would be many and small—circumstances most beneficial and protective to the natives, if the invaders had command of the sea.

The surrender of Glastonbury indicated by the grant of 678, probably on terms as satisfactory as possible to the natives; and the storming of the Polden Hill barriers, indicated by the

(4). I have always assumed that our low grounds had been drained by the Romans. So far as I can remember the Roman remains found near Bridgwater and Huntspill do not supply any certain proof of this. Mr. Green, I see, at pp. 10 and 11 of his book on the *Making of England* assumes the contrary. I do not think it matters for the present purpose. If I am right in supposing that the level of this part of western Europe sank somewhat about the 7th century, Roman improvements, if there were any, would be worthless afterwards.

language of Florence, p. 536, and Henry of Huntingdon, p. 718, would put the low grounds of Somerset very much in the power of the English, who would no doubt at the same time occupy the hills at Langport and Aller. The centre part of the ancient road from Sherborne to Paulett, where it is the boundary to Butleigh for a mile, at the beginning of Polden Hill, appears (*Kemble C.D.*, vol. vi. p. 227) to have been called Wrinwold's Way or Reynold's Way, and gave its name to the eastern part of what is now Whitley Hundred, mentioned in Exon Domesday. *K.C.D.*, vol. v. p. 102, records a barrow of a hero of the same name, Ringwold, on the south-east border of the vale of Taunton Dean. It is not improbable that the maker of this military road was slain some 20 or 30 years after, while helping the conquests of Nun and Ine.

This road, then, may have been made to lead the invaders to the mouth of the Parrett, from whence they would spread themselves over as much of the country between Quantock and the sea, and on the coast beyond, as they cared to occupy.

If, then, Glastonbury mediated between the conquerors and the conquered, what was so natural as that a tract of country should be granted to Glastonbury to hold as a neutral ground between them, and so keep the peace, until a new wave of conquest went further. It is in 710, 28 years after—that Mr. Freeman (p. 44 of the *Transactions* of 1872) supposes that the district about Crewkerne, Ilminster, and west of them was conquered. This, I conceive, must have been in consequence of the line of the upper Parrett being forced by a battle at Wigborough, just south of the Foss, where it crosses the Parrett. After this the vale of Taunton Dean lay open to the invaders from the east, and the breathing time allowed to the Britons by the neutral ground of Monkton passed away.

West Monkton is here called Cantocuudu, Cantocwdu, or Quantock Wood.

Collinson does not give us any clue to the etymology or meaning of Quantock and Cannington, except some Celtic guesses.

I am disposed to connect these words. Collinson says (vol. i. p. 231), that Cannington was anciently Cantetone or Candetone. In King Alfred's will (Kemble, vol. ii. p. 114), after Carhampton, Chillington, Burnham, Wedmore, Cheddar, and Chewton, comes Cantuctune, which cannot well but be Cannington, among the land given to his eldest son; and Cannington remained as part of the ancient demesne of the crown under Edward the Confessor and William.

The greater part of the country between Quantock and the sea is now in Cannington Hundred, and the *sylva famosa quæ dicitur cantocuudu* must be the woodland on the north slope of Quantock. Whether it can have included the crest of the hills is a question botanical and geological, rather than antiquarian. I should have thought that our great hills had always been bare, but my friend Mr. Murray tells me he has found flowers on Mendip, which must have been left by woodland now long destroyed.

The Abbot's estate at West Monkton is said to have the Tone on the south, on the north a large part of Quantock Wood, extending to Helsdene,⁵ and down the rivulet to Walford. This rivulet is, I believe, the present boundary to Monkton so far as the main road at Walford, but no further. The ancient boundary, however, goes down the rivulet to the Tone, including about 1,000 acres of what is now Creech, with the church and Court Barton. It is difficult to suppose that these boundaries were wrong at the time when they were written down, which is not probably earlier than the Conquest, and equally difficult to suppose that those parts of Creech which seem to be the oldest did not then belong to it. The west boundary begins at a place which seems to be Aldwell. There is a Yalway not far off. Then to Oakwell, and then to what we recognise as Hestercombe, and along Ridgeway to Sedgebrook (now Sidbrook, not far off). And then the

(5). Helsdene. We have here the termination Dene or Den, the same as Taunton Dene, which is so uncommon in these western parts.

boundary turns to the west, and joins the Tone at Horseford.

The Charter then goes on to say that three cassates were given also south of the Tone at Creech Barrow (one of the names for the Bath Pool hill), bounded by Tone and Black Brook, which is nearly as it is now; and this which is now part of West Monkton seems to have been a distinct grant, adding three to the other 23 cassates of West Monkton.

Creech Barrow is said to be Cruc Tone in the British language. This is curious, and is the remains of an early tradition.

There is no mistake about Walford being at the eastern boundary of the grant, and this being probably Welshford, indicates the place of some battle which may well have happened here before Monkton was annexed to Glastonbury and to the English territory. One of the difficulties about this charter is the discrepancy from Domesday. Domesday records that the parish was taxed for 15 hides, and could be cultivated with 20 teams of oxen; the charter represents the district given as of 23 cassates, and apparently three more. Hides and cassates ought to be the same thing, and they frequently differ from carucates.

The word cassate is derived from casa, and is held to signify the plot of land—primarily arable—belonging to each house, and which each family would have to live on.

I have not seen any satisfactory etymology of the word hide, but it is plainly the same; for, as Ducange pointed out long ago, the 1,200 familiæ mentioned in Bede (book iv. chap. 16) as the measure of the Isle of Wight, is in King Alfred's version "twelf hund hida." The word 'measure' seems to point to a taxable area, which the hide certainly was at the time of the Conquest. But it is quite plain that whatever may have been done originally, when these countries were first conquered, the taxable area at the time of Domesday varied much in different parts. A hide near Dunster seems to have been at least twice as extensive as a hide near Bath.

Carucate in Domesday is plainly a foreign word for that which a team of eight oxen were able to cultivate, along with the grass land necessary to keep the cattle, with the cows and calves. Ducange states that the hide was 100 acres, according to the dialogue concerning the exchequer. The author of *Fleta*, l. 2, c. 72, s. 4, 5, says that the arable land of a carucate was 180 acres, where the land was tripartite, with a fallow every third year; what we should now call three-course land, but which was then arranged in three arable common fields: and that where the land was bipartite it was 160 acres, with a fallow every other year, and alternate wheat and lent crops; what we should now call four-course land, which I suppose required four nearly equal arable common fields for cultivation, the whole of each common field being sown each year by all the different tenants, as well as by the lord on his domain, which was mixed up with the rest, with the same crop. The author of *Fleta* may have been led away somewhat by the figures he uses; probably the proper quantity may be intermediate between his figures and those in the dialogue. I rather incline to think that when the grass land is taken into account, and the useless land—the moor land not then drained—is left out, the number of carucates in Somerset is very large. If cassate here means carucate some part of our difficulty disappears, because West Monkton is stated in Domesday to have contained 20 carucates. But we still have six hides to account for, and if the charter is genuine we seem almost driven to the alternative that the taxable number of hides was diminished as a favour to Glastonbury, or that land has been at some time or other taken away from Monkton and added to Creech.

Meriet



of
Meriet

Meriet



of
Hestercombe

Meriet of Meriet and of Hestercombe.

BY B. W. GREENFIELD.

IT has been my endeavour to draw up these notes in a genuine spirit of historical research, basing the statements on the evidence of authentic records.

Beyond tracing out the lineage of the De Meriets to their extinction in the male line, the main objects of pursuit have been, firstly, the separating and ascribing to the right person the several histories of four kinsmen of the same name, viz., Sir John de Meriet kt. of Meriet, John de Meriet his eldest son, Sir John de Meriet kt. of Hestercombe, and John de Meriet his eldest son (who all flourished during the interval between the years 1276 and 1337), and clearing away the difficulties that have surrounded the subject and hitherto baffled the efforts of previous writers; and secondly, solving the query, whether the manor of Hestercombe devolved to the Warre family by heirship and natural descent from the De Meriets.

The late Rev. T. Hugo's paper on Hestercombe [*Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archæological Society*, xviii.] has tended to confuse matters in regard to the first point, and, on the second, he merely copies Collinson's account, which was prepared by the Rev. George Harbin and founded on the Visitation of Somerset in 1623. The Warre pedigree as given in that Visitation, contains many inaccuracies besides the erroneous assertion that a John Warre married the daughter and heiress of a John Meriet of Hestercombe. Upon both subjects light is thrown in the accompanying notes.

It is remarkable that, during a period of 500 years, the manor of Hestercombe was not subjected to alienation by sale and purchase, viz., from June, 1375—when Sir John de Meriet of Meriet, by his feoffees, sold his reversion in fee therein to

Sir Henry Percehay, Justice of the Common Pleas,—to April, 1872, when, by the death of the late Miss Warre, it passed to Lord Ashburton, whose grandfather, Alexander Baring (1st Lord Ashburton) had purchased the reversionary estate in fee, contingent on Miss Warre's death without issue. Hitherto, during the progress of my researches, but few data respecting the wives of the De Meriets, beyond their Christian names, have been revealed. The very mystery as to their family origins, stimulates a perhaps hopeless curiosity. Unlike the sacred Dodona of old, neither lovely Hestercombe nor peaceful Merriott has its talking oak that could tell us who they were, or whence they came. The instances herein recorded of the mutability of human events are forcibly illustrated by a simile in the Talmud: *Life is a Shadow*, says the Scripture; upon which the Talmud makes this comment—

‘Yes! Life is a Shadow; but a shadow of what? Is it the Shadow of a tree, or a tower, or anything *Stationary*? No! It is the shadow of a bird in its flight, and Bird and Shadow both flee away!!’

NOTES ON THE DE MERIET PEDIGREE, WITH REFERENCES TO PROOFS.

(1). **Eadnoth**, the earliest known ancestor of the family, was an Anglo Thane, called *Dapifer*, *Constable*, and *Stallere* under the Confessor, and *Stallere* under Harold and the Conqueror, according to Domesday. In some passages of that record his name is written as *Ednod*, *Alnod*, and *Elnod*. After the defeat at Senlac in 1066, the sons of Harold, viz., Godwine, Eadmund, and Magnus, retired to the south-western part of the kingdom, and making havoc in Somerset in 1068, were attacked by Eadnod, the Stallere, commanding the men of Somerset. Though a drawn battle ensued, Eadnoth was slain, and his estates in Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Wilts were, by a general grant from the Conqueror, given to Earl Hugh



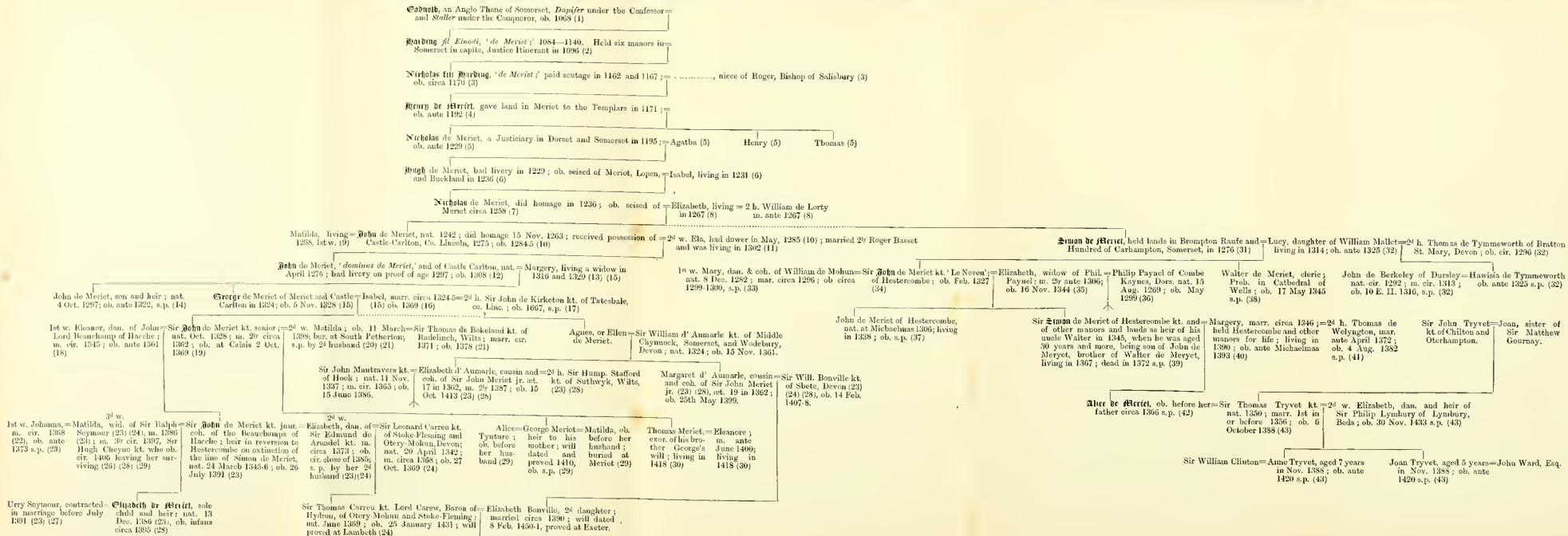
Sir Henry Percehay, Justice of the Common Pleas,—to April, 1872, when, by the death of the late Miss Warre, it passed to Lord Ashburton, whose grandfather, Alexander Baring (1st Lord Ashburton) had purchased the reversionary estate in fee, contingent on Miss Warre's death without issue. Hitherto, during the progress of my researches, but few data respecting the wives of the De Meriets, beyond their Christian names, have been revealed. The very mystery as to their family origins, stimulates a perhaps hopeless curiosity. Unlike the sacred Dodona of old, neither lovely Hestercombe nor peaceful Merriott has its talking oak that could tell us who they were, or whence they came. The instances herein recorded of the mutability of human events are forcibly illustrated by a simile in the Talmud: *Life is a Shadow*, says the Scripture; upon which the Talmud makes this comment—

‘Yes! Life is a Shadow; but a shadow of what? Is it the Shadow of a tree, or a tower, or anything *Stationary*? No! It is the shadow of a bird in its flight, and Bird and Shadow both flee away!!’

NOTES ON THE DE MERIET PEDIGREE, WITH REFERENCES TO PROOFS.

(1). **Cadnoth**, the earliest known ancestor of the family, was an Anglo Thane, called *Dapifer*, *Constable*, and *Stallere* under the Confessor, and *Stallere* under Harold and the Conqueror, according to Domesday. In some passages of that record his name is written as *Ednod*, *Alnod*, and *Elnod*. After the defeat at Senlac in 1066, the sons of Harold, viz., Godwine, Eadmund, and Magnus, retired to the south-western part of the kingdom, and making havoc in Somerset in 1068, were attacked by Eadnod, the Stallere, commanding the men of Somerset. Though a drawn battle ensued, Eadnoth was slain, and his estates in Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Wilts were, by a general grant from the Conqueror, given to Earl Hugh

Pedigree of Meriet of Meriet and Bestercombe, Co. Somerset, and of Castle-Carlton, Co. Lincoln.



Matilda,
1268, 1s

John de Meriet of Meriet and
April 1276 e Nev
Feb.

John de Meriet, son and heir ; nat.
4 Oct. 1297; ob. ante 1322, s.p. (14)

George de Meriet of Meriet and
Carlton in 1324; ob. 5 Nov. 1

1st w. Eleanor, dau. of John = Sir John de Meriet kt. senior ; = 2^d w. Mag
Lord Beauchamp of Hacche ; nat. Oct. 1328 ; m. 2^{ly} circa 1398; bur
m. cir. 1345 ; ob. ante 1361 1362 ; ob. at Calais 2 Oct. s.p. by 2
(18) 1369 (19)

3^d w.
1st w. Johanna, = Matilda, wid. of Sir Ralph = Sir John de Meriet kt. junr. = Eliza
m. cir. 1368 Seymour (23) (24), m. 1386 coh. of the Beauchamps of Sir
(22), ob. ante (23) ; m. 3^{ly} cir. 1397, Sir Hacche ; heir in reversion to Sir
1373 s.p. (23) Hugh Cheyne kt. who ob. Hestercombe on extinction of circa
cir. 1406 leaving her sur- the line of Simon de Meriet, cir.
viving (26) (28) (29) nat. 24 March 1345-6 ; ob. 26 s. p.
July 1391 (23) hush

Urry Seymour, contracted = Elizabeth de Meriet, sole
in marriage before July child and heir ; nat. 13
1391 (23) (27) Dec. 1386 (23), ob. infans
circa 1395 (28)

Sir Th
Hydr
nat. J
prove

(of Chester) [Eyton's Analysis and Digest of the Domesday Survey of Somerset].

(2). **Harding** *filius Elnodi* of the Exchequer Domesday, 1086, called '*Hardincus filius Elnodi*' and '*Hardin de Meriet*' (from his manor of Merriott) in the *Inquisitio Gheldi*, 1084, who flourished from 1084 to 1140, was one of the Anglo Thanes of Somersetshire. Smyth states that Harding was descended from the race of the Danish Kings [*MS. 'Lives of the Berkeleys'* at Berkeley Castle]. It is remarkable that Harding, the son of Eadnoth, was not allowed succession to any of his ancestral estates. William of Malmesbury, his contemporary, remarks that he appears to have thriven by forensic rather than martial genius. Harding de Meriet was clearly the greatest of the Somerset Anglo Thanes. He had, in 1086, six Somerset manors, one of which (Capland) had been augmented since the Conquest by a parcel of waste land taken from the Royal manor of Curi (Curry Rivell). In five of his six manors in Somerset Harding succeeded to Tovi, or Tofig, who was sheriff of Somerset at the Conquest, and who was apparently in office in the summer of 1068 when, as Tovich 'minister,' he attested King William's famous charter to Giso, Bishop of Wells. In Harding's sixth manor (Meriet) his antecessor had been Godwin—possibly that Godwin who preceded Tofig as sheriff of Somerset, and who, if Harding's antecessor at Merriott, was living in 1066.

As Domesday tenant in capite, '*Harding filius Elnodi*' alias '*Hardin de Meriet*,' held the six following manors in Somerset, viz., (1) Digenescova (Discove) in Bruton Hundred: 1 hide, 3 ploughs; value £2. Of this 1 hide, he held 1 virgate and 2 fertines (half a virgate) in demesne, *i.e.*, in Domesday subtenure. (2) Brada, in the Hundred of Abdiek cum Bulstone (part of Bradon and probably Goviz-Bradon): 1 hide, 2 ploughs; value 10s.; Celric subtenant. (3) Capilanda in the same hundred (Capland in Broadway and Beer-Crocombe): 1 hide, 2 ploughs; value £1; to which was added after the

Conquest, out of the Royal manor of Curi, 2 virgates that were waste land when Harding received them, worth 6s.; total value, £1 6s. (4) Bochelanda in the Hundred of Abdiek (Buckland St. Mary): 1 hide, 4 ploughs, 20 capræ; value 10s.; Godwin, a Saxon Thane, subtenant. (5) Lopen in South Petherton Hundred: of the whole 2 hides therein, of which he was tenant in capite, he held 1 hide and $\frac{1}{12}$ in demesne. There were 2 ploughs, and the annual value was £2. (6) Meriet (Merriott) in the Hundred of Cruche (Crewkerne): 5 hides (being the portion of which Godwin, the præpositus or King's bailiff of the manor of Crewkerne, was the Saxon owner in the time of the Confessor), 6 ploughs, 1 mill yielding 5s.; total value £4. Of these 5 hides, Harding held $2\frac{1}{2}$ in demesne. Seven hides—forming the remaining part of Meriet—(five of which were held by Lewin, and two by Bristuard in the time of the Confessor), were assigned by the Conqueror to his half brother, Robert, Count of Moretain, to hold in capite. Dode-man was the Domesday subtenant of the Count of Moretain's portion, which contained 7 hides, 7 ploughs, and 3 mills yielding 30s.; total value £7. [ibm.] These details are necessary as proofs, and they appertain to what follows.

Harding fitz Elnodi was one of the Justices Itinerant in Devon and Cornwall and Exeter to investigate the Royal Pleas in Lent, 9 Will. II. 1096 [Cartulary of Tavistock Priory, as quoted in *Notes and Queries*, 6th S. ii. 11]. 'It is abundantly clear,' writes the late Rev. R. W. Eyton in *N. and Q.*, 5th S. xii. 362, 'that Harding fitz Ealnoth was succeeded at Merriott and other Somersetshire estates by his eldest son and heir Nicholas fitz Harding.'

(3). **Nicholas de Meriet** [Hearne's *Liber Niger Scaccarii*, i. 76], also called **Nicholas Fitz Harding** [ibm. 95]:—Roger, Bishop of Sarum (1107–1139), while Chancellor—having the custody of the Abbey of Abbotsbury,—gave two hides of the Abbey lands at Atram (in the parish of Whitchurch Canonorum, Dorset), in marriage with a certain niece of his to

Nicholas de Meriet, without consulting the Convent. Nicholas and his wife and Henry their son held this land a long time—adversely—without rendering any service to the Abbey. This is embodied in the return of the knights' fees held by the Abbey in 1166, wherein the then Abbot certifies that—being unable to recover service from Nicholas de Meriet and his wife and Henry their son—he had granted, by arrangement, the same land to this Henry the son, and his heirs, subject to the service of half a knight's fee [*Lib. Nig.* i. 76]. As will be seen below, his descendent, John de Meriet, held these two carucates, or hides, of land in 49 E. III., 1375 [See note (19)].

Nicholas fitz Harding had an estate in lands in Somerset, little inferior to his brother Robert fitz Harding (ancestor of the Berkeley family), where he paid escuage in 7 and 8 H. II. (1161–2), assessed at two marks for a knights' fee, towards the King's wars in the siege of Tholouse, and he also paid in 13 H. II. (1167) aid towards the marriage of Maud the King's daughter, to the Duke of Saxony [Red Book of the Exchequer: Pipe Roll 14 H. II., as quoted in Smyth's MS. '*Lives of the Berkeleys*'].

According to the return of knights' fees ordered by the King in the second Council of Clarendon, February, 1166, and required to be sent in by the first Monday in Lent following (13 March) [*Eyton's Court, Household, and Itinerary of H. I.*], 'Nicholas fitz Harding' certified that he held a knight's fee of the old feoffment of the Honor of Gloucester, and two knights' fees in capite in Somerset, and he describes in his return the sub-enfeoffments made by his father (Harding) in the reign of H. I. [*Lib. Nig.* i. 95]. Nicholas fitz Harding was dead before 1171, as in that year we find his son in possession, as successor, and therefore of full age [*Lib. Nig.* i. 93]. This son,

(4). **Henry de Meriet**, in 1171—according to the Scutage Roll—gave to the Knights Templars a virgate of land in

Meriet, which Walter de Meriet was holding at a rent of 3s. [Dugd. Mon. ii. 530]. He was dead in 1192 [A. S. Ellis in *N. and Q.* 5th S. xii. 362].

(5). **Nicholas de Meriet**, in 6 R. I. (1195), was one of the King's Justiciars in Dorset and Somerset for assessing the tax on lands towards the King's ransom [Madox's *Exchequer*, i. 592]. In 3 Joh. (1201), he paid 20 marks scutage for one knight's fee held in chief, for one knight's fee and a half held of the Honor of Moretain, and for half a knight's fee held of the Honor of Gloucester [ibm. 665]. Nicholas de Meriet and Agatha his wife, in 1203, owed 20 marks for peaceably holding a hide of land in Wily, Wilts, and the fee farm of the said ville of Earl Reginald [Pipe Roll, Wiltescir 5 Joh. Nova Oblata: Dodsworth MSS. in Bodl. Lib. vol. 14, fol. 78^b]. In 14 Joh. (1212), the sheriff of Dorset and Somerset accounts for £12 6s. 6½d., being the issues for two years of the lands of Nicholas de Meriet which John Wac had in farm [Dodsw. MSS.]. Nicholas de Meriet, with the consent of Agatha his wife and Hugh his son and heir, gave, by charter, to the Priory of Bruton his chapel of Lopene. Among the witnesses to this charter are his brothers, Henry and Thomas de Meriet [Bruton Cartulary, penes the Earl of Ilchester, p. 146]. This charter is without date, but there follows a confirmation of it by Jocelyn, Bishop of Bath and Wells; and as Jocelyn was consecrated to the See, 28 May, 1206, the gift must have been made subsequent to that day.

(6). **Hugh de Meriet**, son and heir of Nicholas, on payment of a fine of 25 marks, had livery of the lands of his inheritance on 2 May, 1229 [Fines Roll, 13 H. III. memb. 8]. In 14 H. III., 1230, he owed 13 marks of scutage in aid of the King's passage into Brittany for 1 knight's fee and a half, held of the Honor of Moretain [Pipe Roll, Somerset and Dorset in Madox's *Excheq.* i. 661]. In a suit between William Russell, demandant, and Hugh de Meriet and Isabel his wife, tenants, concerning six virgates of land in Stratton, Somerset,

the King by his writ, dated at Hereford, 24 July, 1231, directs the sheriff to stay further proceedings in the case, because the said Hugh was then absent in Wales [Close Roll, 15 H. III. m. 7]. In 1234, Hugh de Meriet, with Elyas Breton and John Gubaud, was appointed, as a justice, to make inquisition in forests [Close Roll, 18 H. III. m. 14 in dorso]. By writ, dated 17 July, 1235, Hugh de Meriet, with John de Aure, was appointed a receiver in Somerset of the aid granted throughout the kingdom [Close Roll, 19 H. III. pt. 1, m. 6 in dorso]. This Hugh de Meriet died before 8 April, 1236, seised of one knight's fee and a half in Meriet, Lopene, and Bocland (St. Mary), Somerset, of the annual value of £15, held of the Honor of Moreton, and Nicholas de Meriet was found to be his son and next heir [Inq. p.m., 20 Hen. III. No. 16^a].

(7). **Nicholas de Meriet**, son and heir of Hugh de Meriet, did homage for one knight's fee and a half which he held of the King in chief in Meriet. Accordingly, the King, on 9 May, 1236, issued his precept to the Sheriff of Somerset, that having taken security from the said Nicholas for the payment of his relief, he caused full seisin to be made to him of all the lands in Meriet, of which his father, Hugh de Meriet, was seised in fee [Fines Roll, 20 H. III. m. 10]. At the Dorset Assizes in 1244, Nicholas de Meriet was charged by the bailiffs of the city of Exeter with having demanded tolls of market of citizens of Exeter when attending his markets of Lopene and Meriet, as being contrary to the liberties secured to the citizens by the charters granted to them by the King's predecessors [Placita &c. in Com. Dors. coram R. de Thurkileby et sociis suis anno regni regis Henrici filii R. Johis 28^o (1244) rot. 3 in dorso].

Nicholas de Meriet died about the year 1258, as Elizabeth his widow, in that year, for a fine of one mark, obtained a writ of '*Pone ad bancum*,' with reference to her dower, dated 29 March [Fines Roll, 42 H. III. m. 9].

The inquisition on his death was not taken till after John de Meriet, his son and heir, came of age: from which inquisition, taken at Yvelcestre, on the oaths of Walter de Loveny, Ralph Burnel, Gerard de Coker, Martin de Coker, Ralph Albe, Elias de Coker, Nicholas de Lopeneford, Richard le Mey, John Duket, William le Cu, Robert Malreward, and Philip de Cnolle, we learn that this Nicholas de Meriet held one knight's fee of the King in chief in Meriet, Lopen, and Stratton, Somerset, and one other knight's fee there of the Earl of Glovernya (Gloucester), all of the yearly value of £60, and that John de Meriet was his son and heir, of the age of 21 years on St. Kenelm's day, 47 H. III. (17 July, 1263). [Inq. p. m. 47 H. III. No. 7.]

(8). *Elizabeth, widow of Nicholas de Meriet*, was summoned in Michaelmas term, 1267, in the Court of King's Bench, to answer to the King and to Robert Mellent, to whom the King had granted the said Elizabeth's marriage (her late husband holding his lands of the King in chief), why she—without the King's license, or that of the said Robert Mellent—had married William de l' Ortyay (de Lorty). Thereupon it was agreed that the said William de l' Ortyay should pay to the said Robert Mellent 60 marks, for having married the said Elizabeth. [Placita coram Rege, Michaelmas, 51 H. III., and beginning of 52 H. III., rot. 1 in dorso: see '*Abbrevatio Placitorum*,' &c., printed by the Record Commission.]

(9). *Matilda, wife of John de Meriet*:—In 1268, John de Meriet brought an action against Walter de Vernun and others, for unlawful and forcible seizure of his goods at Meriet to the value of 40 marks, and for the abduction and detention of Matilda, his wife. [Placita coram Rege, 52 H. III., rot. 10, Devon: Dodsw. MSS. 42, fols. 50 and 93.]

(10). *John de Meriet*, son and heir of Nicholas de Meriet, was under age at the time of his father's death, and his guardianship was committed to Prince Edward, the King's eldest son, who granted the same to Anketin de Martivall and Agnes

his wife. The King received this John de Meriet's homage, on learning by the Inq. p. m. of 47 H. III., No. 7, that he had come to full age on St. Kenelm's day in that year (17 July, 1263); and, on 15 November, 1263, ordered the said Anketin and Agnes his wife, to cause full livery of seisin of of all the lands of his inheritance to be made to him accordingly. [Fines Roll, 48 H. III., m. 6.] His birth therefore took place on, or about, 17th July, 1242.

On the death of John le Despenser, in 1275, this John de Meriet came into possession of, and did fealty for, two-third parts of the manor of Castle Carlton, Co. Lincoln [Originalia Roll, 3 E. I., rot. 20: printed Calendar], as cousin and next heir of Joan, daughter of Robert le Lou, or Lupus, and late wife of this John le Despenser.

Robert Lupus—who was constable of the Castle of Knaresborough in 1218 [Fines Roll, 2 H. III. m. 4], died in 1247, possessed of the manor of Karleton, Co. Lincoln, which he held of the King in chief, leaving a daughter and heir under age. Thereon the King granted, on 31 May, 1247, for a fine of 80 marks, the custody of the manor of Karleton to Geoffry le Despenser, to hold during the minority of the heir [Fines Roll, 31 H. III. m. 6]. He died in 1251, leaving a son and heir, John le Despenser, under age, whose wardship was granted, 29 June, 1251, to Emma, his mother, for a fine of 400 marks [Fines Roll, 35 H. III. m. 15].

John le Despenser married Joan, the daughter and heiress of the said Robert le Lou. They left no surviving issue. Joan died first, leaving her husband tenant for life, by the courtesy of England, of her manors of Caveneby, or Cameby, and Castle-Carlton, Co. Lincoln. He died in 1275, when Hugh, son of Hugh le Despenser, his brother, was found to be his nearest heir in blood; and—as to his late wife's estate of inheritance—Ralph de Grianton, John de Meriet, and Adam de Normanville, severally, claimed to be heirs to the manor of Cameby; and—as regarded the manor of Castle Carleton—

John, son and heir of Nicholas de Meriet, was pronounced to be the nearest heir of the said Joan. Accordingly, John de Meriet immediately entered upon and took possession of two-thirds of the manor which John le Despenser held for life, the said John de Meriet being of the age of 30 years and more [Inq. p. m. of John le Despenser, 3 E. I. No. 2, and Roberts's *Calendarium*, 218—9].

John de Meriet, in 1277, proffered—by Walter de Bokenhull—the service of one knight's fee, due on his lands in Meryet, for the expedition against Lewelin, Prince of Wales: to muster at Worcester on Tuesday next after the octave of St. John Baptist, 6 July, 5 E. I. [Parliamentary Writs, printed by the Record Commission, I. 736].

John de Meriet died in the early part of the year 1285; the writ on his death, directed to Henry de Bray, the escheator on this side Trent, being dated 20 March, 13 E. I. (1284-5). By the pursuant inquisition taken at Cru kern, on Saturday in the festival of Sts. Tibertius and Valerianus, 13 E. I. (14 April, 1285), on the oaths of Geoffry de Aslonde, Henry de Legh, William Burnel, Robert Maureward, Nicholas de Clopton, Randolph Burnel, Elyas Golde, Hugh de Bath, John de Garden, Gilbert le May, Thomas de la More, and Walter Alwyne, it was found, “quod Johannes de Meryet defunctus tenuit die quo obiit de d'no Rege in capite medietatē man'ii de M'yet in Com. Som's' p' uno feodo militis & aliam medietatē d'ci man'ii de Comit' Gloscestr' p' uno feodo militis. It'm q'd aysiamētū Cur' de M'yet cū gardinis & curtillag' valet p annū lxs. Est ibidm̃ unū columbar' debile et valet p annū xiiid. Sūt ibidm̃ ccciiii^{xx}xi.¹ acre t're arabil' in dominico & valet quelib' acra p annū viiid. Sm̃. xiii*l*. xiiiis. It'm sūt ibidm̃ xliii acre p^{ti} & valet quelibet acra p annū iis. Sm̃ iii*l*. vis. It'm est ibidm̃ quedam pastur' in q'dam clauso

(1). This deceptive quantity of 391 is made up of one long hundred of six score, and two short hundreds of five score each, plus 91: viz., 120 + 100 + 100 + 91 = 411; which, at 8*d*. per acre, = £13. 14*s*.

ex pte boriali gardini que valet p annū xxvis. viiid. Pastur' in P^rco qui vocat^r Eggewoude valet p annū xs. Pastur' in la Garstune (&) Slapusweye valet p annū vis. viiid. Pastur' forins' ex^a cōmūniam cōicant' valet p annū vis. viiid. Est ibidm̄ un' Boscus de quo possūt vendi p annū iiii acre de sub-bosco et valet quelibet acra p annū xviiid. S^m iiiis. vid. Pro-ficius de Alnetis valet p annū iiiis. It'm q'd Reddit' Ass' liber' tenent' valet p annū iiii*li*. xiiis. ix*d*. ; 1 li. pipis p'c' viiid. & 1 lib. cumini p'c' *id*. & ob. It'm q'd Reddit' Ass' Custumar' valet p annū xvii*li*. iiiis. vid. It'm q'd auxiliū p'd'cor' Custu-mar' valet p annū xxxiis. viiid. ô. q^a It'm q'd lard'² eor'd'm valet p annū ad f^m S'ci Martini xiiis. *id*. ô. q^a It'm Chyrchet³ valet p annū ix*s*. viiid. It'm auxiliū lini⁴ valet p annū iis. xid. It'm den' S'ci Pet' valet p annū iis. xid. It'm Reddit' aucar' valet p annū iis. viiid. It'm Reddit' capon' valet p annū xiid. It'm Fayr' (Fair) d'ci Man'ii valet p annū vis. viiid. It'm placita & pq'sita Cur' cū Finibz t're & H'iet' (heriots) valet p annū xls. Est ibidm̄ quedam Ec̄ca (ecclesia) de q^a donaçō sp'tat ad d'c^m Man'iū & valet p annū xx*li*. It'm q'd est apud Boclonde (St. Mary) quedam Ec̄ca un' (unde) donaçō sp'tat ad dc^m Man'iū de M'yet & valet p annū cs.

Sm^a valoris d'ci Man'ii p annū li*lib*. xiiis. iiii*d*. p't' (præter) advocacōem Ec̄ce d'ci Man'ii q' valet p annū xx*lib*' & advo-cacōem Ec̄ce de Boclond q' ptinet ad d'c^m Man'iū et valet cs."

Respecting the manors of Lopene and Stratton, which he also held at the time of his death, the same jurors found, "quod manerium de Lopene tenet' de Hugone Punz (Poyntz) in S'gentia claudendo qu'dā petiam in P^rco suo de Corymalet cōtinent' ii pticat'. It'm q'd aysiamētū Cur' de Lopene cū

(2). *Lardum, Lardarium* : a yearly rent, or tribute, in lieu of a customary service at the lord's larder.

(3). *Chyrchet, Chircheset, Churchesset*,—from the Saxon '*Cyricsceat*' :—church dues, signifying a certain measure of wheat, which every man on St. Martin's day gave—as customary oblation—to the ordinary, or lord of the manor.

(4). Customary dues, or rent, to the lord of the manor, on flax, or flax seed.

gardinis & curtillag' valet p annū xs. Sūt ibidm̄ cxxix acre t're arabil' in đinico et valet quel' acra p annū viiid. Sm^a iiii*li*. vis. It'm sūt ibidm̄ viii acre p^{ati} & valet quelib' acra p annū xvid. Sm^a xs. viiid. It'm pastur' forins' potest sustiner' p annū vi bov' ii affr'⁵ et valet p annū iiis. iiiid. Est ibidm̄ quoddam molendinū et valet p annū xs. It'm placit' & pq'sita Nundinar' d'ci Man'ii cū theolon' & aliis pq'sit' valent p annū xls. Et d'ce Nundine sūt in manu d'ni Reg' p' (post) ultimam Itin'acōm Justic' in Com' Som's'⁶ It'm q'd Reddit' Ass' liber' tenent' valet p annū vis. vid.; i li. pipis p'c' viiid. It'm Reddit' Ass' custumar' d'ci Man'ii valet p annū iiii*li*. ix*s*. viiid. It'm auxil' eordm̄ custumar' valet p annū xiiis. xid. It'm lard' eordm̄ custumar' valet p annū viis. iiiid. ob. It'm Chyrchet' eord' valet p annū iis. viiid. ob. It'm den' S'ci Pet' valet p annū xiiid. It'm opa autūpni eordm̄ valent p annū xiid. ô q^a It'm Placita & pq'sita Cur' valēt p annū vs.

Sm^a valoris p'd'ci Man'ii p annū xiii*li*. ix*s*. xid. ob. q^a."

As regards the manor of Stratton the Jurors further said,—
 "quod p'd'cus Johēs de Meryet defunct' tenuit die quo obiit de d'no Rege in capite p'd'cēm Man'iū ptinens ad man'iū de Meryet. It'm q'd e' (est) ibidm̄ q'ddā gardinū et valet p annū xiiis. iiiid. It'm reddit' Ass' liber' tenent' valet p annū xis. vd. It'm Reddit' Ass' custumar' valet p annū exis. vid. It'm auxil' eordm̄ custumar' valet p annū xxvis. vid. It'm opa autūpni eordm̄ valent p annū xxiis. vid.

Sm^a valoris p'd'ci Man'ii p annū ix*lib*. vs. iiiid."

The following tabular form shews the details of the annual values more plainly.

MANOR OF MERIET:

Easement of the Manor Court, gardens and					£	s	d
Curtilage	...	...	...	...	3	0	0
Small Dove Cote	...	...	...	...	1	0	

(5). *Affri* vel *Affra* :—Bullocks, or beasts, of the plough.

(6). The time and cause of this seizure and retention in the King's hand of the Revenues and Tolls of Lopen Fair are explained in note (15); and the Fair is further treated of in note (23).

	£	s	d
411 acres of Arable in demesne @ 8 <i>d.</i> per acre	13	14	0
43 „ meadow @ 2 <i>s.</i>	4	6	0
A Pasture on north side of the (Court) garden	1	6	8
„ in the park called Eggewoude ...	10	0	
„ in the Garstune (&) Slapusweye ...	6	8	
„ not included in the Common of the Commoners	6	8	
3 acres of Underwood @ 1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per acre ...	4	6	
Profit of Alderwood	4	0	
Rents of Assize of the Free tenants ...	4	14	9
1 lb of Pepper			8
1 lb of Cummin			1½
Rents of Assize of the Customary Tenants ...	17	4	6
Aid of the Customary Tenants	1	12	8¾
Larder dues of the Customary Tenants ...	14	1¾	
Church dues	9	8	
Flax dues	3	11	
Peter's Pence	3	11	
Rent of Geese	2	8	
„ Poultry	1	0	
The Manor Fair	6	8	
Pleas and Perquisites of Court, Fines and Heriots	2	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£	51	14 3

MANOR OF LOPENE.

Easement of the Manor Court, gardens, and curtilage	10	0	
129 acres of Arable in demesne @ 8 <i>d.</i> per acre	4	6	0
8 „ Meadow @ 1 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> per acre ...	10	8	
A Pasture not in demesne	4	4	
The Mill	10	0	
Pleas and Perquisites of the Manor Fair, with tolls, &c., all which are now remaining in the King's hand	2	0	0

	£	s	d
Rents of Assize of the Free Tenants ...	6	6	
1 lb of Pepper			8
Rents of Assize of the Customary Tenants ...	4	9	8
Aid of the Customary Tenants	14	11	
Larder dues of the Customary Tenants ...	7	3½	
Church dues	2	8½	
Peter's Pence	1	2	
Autumn labour of the Customary Tenants ...	1	0¾	
Pleas and Perquisites of Court	5	0	
	£ 14	9	11¾

MANOR OF STRATTON.

The Garden	13	4	
Rents of Assize of the Free Tenants ...	11	5	
„ „ of the Customary Tenants ...	5	11	6
Aid of the Customary Tenants	1	6	6
Autumn labour of the Customary Tenants ...	1	2	6
	£ 9	5	3

	TOTALS:	£	s	d
Manor of Meriet		51	14	3
„ Lopene		14	9	11¾
„ Stratton		9	5	3
		75	9	5¾
„ Castle Carlton		70	13	7¾
		£ 146	3	1½

Pursuant to the same Writ, a Valuation of the Manor of Castle Carlton, Co. Lincoln, was taken there, on Saturday next before St. George's day, 13 E. I (21 April, 1285). In this Valuation it is stated that John de Meriet, deceased, held the Manor of John de la Haye by the service of a third part of a knight's fee; that John de Meriet was his son and nearest heir, but of whose age the jury were ignorant as he was not born in those parts; and that the total annual value

of the Manor (of which details are given), after all deductions, amounted to £70. 13s. 7½d. [Inq. p.m. 13 E. I. no. 20].

To the Close Roll of 13 E. I. m. 8, two separate schedules are stitched: one, containing the several totals of the annual values of the four manors, as given above, makes the amount of all four, by an error in the casting-up, to be £146. 3s. 2½d., which is in excess of the correct amount by one penny. The Record then proceeds, as follows: “unde terciā pars est xlviii*li*. xiii*s*. iii*id*. ob. q^a (*sic*). Et est summa duarum partium remanentium in manu Regis iiiii^{xx}xviii*li*. (97) viii*s*. ix*d*. ob. (*sic*) unde pro predicta terciā parte assignatur Ele que fuit uxor predicti Johannis dos sua prout patet in cedula cui ista consuitur, pro qua dicta Ela reddet per annum domino Regi vs. x*id*. ob. q^a, qui excedunt dictam dotem.” The other Schedule, made pursuant to a Precept directed to the same Henry de Bray, and dated 1 May, 13 E. I. (1285) [Close Roll, 13 E. I. m. 9], contains the assignment of dower referred to in the first schedule. As this Record contains several points of detail that will interest the Somerset antiquary, I here append a verbatim copy of it:—“Assignacō dotis Ele que fuit ux’ Johāis de M’iet defuncti p Magr̄m H. de Bray escaetorē dñi Reg’ cit^a Trentam fca mense Maii anno regni Regis E. xiii. p p’cept̄ dñi Regis de t’ris & teñ que f’unt ip̄us Joh’is Videlt’ hamelettū de Lopene in Com. Som’s quod extendit̄ ad xiii*li* ix*s*. x*id*. ob. q^a Et hamelettū de Stratton in eod̄m Com. quod extendit̄ ad ix*li*. vs. viii*id*. (*sic*). Et ciiii^{xx} & xi (191) acre t’re cū ptiñ in Man’io de M’iet in eod’ Com. que extendūt̄ ad vi*li*. viii*s*. iii*id*. videlt’ iiiii^{xx}iii (84) acr’ t’re in quadā Cult’a ex pte orientali p’d’ci Man’ii que vocat̄ Basthehey. Et v acr’ in quodā Crofto quod vocat̄ Flexland. Et xx acr’ t’re in campo qui vocat̄ Netherdon jacentes jux^a aqm̄ de P’va Lopene p’pinquiores eidem aque. Et v acr’ in loco qui vocat̄ la Shau. Et xx acr’ t’re in campo qui vocat̄ Wodforlonge jacentes int’ portam de Eggewod et gardinū p’d’ci Man’ii. Et xxx acre t’re in campo de Dockedele jux^a Eccliam p’d’ci Man’ii p’pin-

quiores eidem. Et xx & vii acr' t're in campo qui vocat Beredōn jacent' jux^a Holdetheye & se extendūt' p Soudweleslak'. Iī xii acr' p^{ati} in p^{ato} p'd'ci Man'ii quod vocat' Elepoleshm in pte oriental' p'd'ci p^{ati} v'sus la Isinebom. Iī vi acr' p^{ati} in quodā p^{ato} quod vocat' Evynhm in pte occidental' ipiūs p^{ati}. Sm^a xviii acre p^{ati} que extendūt' ad xxxvis. Et totā pastur' in Eggewode que extendit' ad xs. Et medietatē bosci de Eggewode in pte occidental' ejusdē bosci que extendit' ad iis. iiid. Et reddit' lib'or' tenentiū videl't Galfri de Hase-laund, Johīs de M'iet,⁷ Nichi' Hossins, Hug' de Bathon, Walt'i de la Beme & Isabell' Lond, qui extendūt' ad vis. viiid. p annū. It'm reddit' subscriptor' custumarior' videl't Riči Tantun, Rob'ti Balloc, Thom' Gold, Henr' Palle, Thom' Foliot, Riči Fromond, Rob'ti Lend, Joh'is Schap, Wymerie Porta, Ph'i Atte-bogeh, Hug' Batte, Ricī Hores, Rob'ti Atte-Strele, Rog'i Atte Stone, Walt'i Longe, Andr' Chaumpeneys, Aunce de Esselond, Gunnilde le Charett', Rob'ti le Baker, Gilb'ti Atte Hirne, Rad'i Gundy, Will'i Snelle, Nich'i Gold, Ade Tredgold, Opping Gold, Rob'ti Pomerey, Rob'ti Kinge, Rad'i Fesecok', Rob'ti Avenell, Hug' Paris, Joh'e (Joan) relicte Swele & Rob'ti Wodeward, qui valet p annū xii*li*. It'm auxiliū eordē, lardiū eordē, Cherchettū eordē, et auxiliū lini eordē, que oīa extendūt' p annū ad xlviii*s*. vid. ob. q^a. Iī reddit' caponū qui v' (valet) p annū xiid. Iī totā pasturā in la Garston & Slapesway que extendit' ad vis. viiid. Iī omnia servitia & consuet' p'd'cor Custumar' una cū pl't's & pquis' p'd'cor' lib'or' & villanor' que extendūt' ad xxvis. viiid. S^m^a totius valoris p'd'ce assignacōnis xlix*li*. ix*d*. ob. (*sic*). De quib' d'ca dñā Ela debet reddere dño Regi p annū vs. xid. ob. q^a. Et sic remanēt de claro xlviii*li*. xiii sol.' iiiid. ob. q^a. ad quam summam attingit dos p'd'ca. It'm assignat' eidē dñe Ele advocacō Eccl'ie de Bokelond que extendit' ad c s. p annū."

There are some errors and discrepancies in the above com-

(7). This was probably Sir John de Meriet of Hestercombe, as in 1333 his eldest son, John de Meriet, had an estate in reversion on the death of John de Bath in a messuage, a mill, and a virgate of land in Meriet [see note (37)].

putations to which the reader's attention is directed, and more especially to the valuation of the manor of Stratton in the Record of Assignment of Dower, viz., £9. 5s. 8d. instead of £9. 5s. 3d., being an error of 5d. in excess, which makes confusion. The Chancery clerk should have written-down the sum to which the Assignment of Dower amounted, as £49. 0s. 4½d. instead of £49. 0s. 9½d. (the result of this error of 5d.) A short explanation seems necessary as regards the sum of 5s. 11¾d. to be paid by the widow, annually, to the King. The eschaetor had assigned a dower to her on her late husband's three Somersetshire manors, amounting (as corrected above) to £49. 0s. 4½d.; but as she was entitled to only £48. 14s. 4¾d., that is one third of the income on the entire estate of her late husband, which on all his four manors, including Castle-Carlton, amounted to no more than £146. 3s. 2½d., she would be receiving an excess of 5s. 11¾d. over the dower to which she was entitled. This excess therefore became due to the King.

(11). **Ela**, second wife and widow of John de Meriet (who died in 1285), was mother of his son and next heir, John de Meriet [The late Rev. T. Hugo's "*Hestercombe*": see *Proceedings* of the Society in 1872, vol. xviii. pp. 142-6]. Shortly after her husband's death an Assignment of Dower was made to her, as shewn above.

Ela having married her second husband Roger Basset, her son John de Meriet, brought an action in the King's court before the Judges of Assize at York, claiming the dower which had been assigned to her out of the lands of his inheritance. Whereupon the King issued Precepts, dated 10 [April?] 30 E. I. (1302) to the Sheriffs of Somerset and Lincoln to impanel juries, in their respective shires, of twelve knights and other freemen, to view and value all the lands and tenements of the inheritance of the said John de Meriet in Great Lopen and Great Stratton, in Somerset, and Castle-Carlton, Co. Lincoln, in which the said Roger Basset and Ela his wife claimed dower in her right.

Only two documents relating to the matter now remain, viz., the Writ to the Sheriff of Somerset, now placed among the Inq. p.m. 30 E. I. no. 147, and the Return from the Sheriff of Lincolnshire, also placed among the Inq. p.m. 30 E. I. no. 144. The latter record, which was not clearly understood by the late Mr. Hugo, is an Extent and valuation made at Castle-Carleton, 19 September, 1302, before John Gobaud, the Sheriff of Co. Lincoln, and William de Maunby, keeper of the Pleas of the Crown, of all the lands and tenements of John, son and heir of John de Meriet, deceased, which he held in Castle-Carleton, according to their condition and value at the time of his father's death. But it is so damaged that a recital of the particulars that remain would be useless.

(12). **John de Meriet**, called '*dominus de Meriet*,' [Close Roll, 1 E. II. m. 6; Inq. p.m. 1 E. II. no. 62; Inq. 2 E. II. no. 2, and Originalia Roll, 1 E. II. rot 11].

He bore on his shield, Barreé, *or* and *sable* of six pieces. [Roll of Arms of the Bannerets of England, compiled in the early part of the reign of E. II., taken from the original in the Cotton MSS. '*Caligula*' A 18].

He was born at Meriet, 2 April, 4 E. I., 1276, son and heir of John de Meriet by Ela his second wife, and had seisin of his lands and tenements on making proof of his age in Trinity term, 1297, [*'Prob. ætatis Joh̄is fil' & hæredis Joh̄is de Meriet'* in the '*Placita coram Rege*,' 25 E. I., rot. 3 and 19, no. 152, as extracted by Hugo, 142-6].

He was appointed a Commissioner of Array in Dors'. and Somers', 16 Sept., 25 E. I., 1297; was returned in Lincolnshire and Somers'. as holding land and rents to the amount of £40 yearly value and upwards, and, as such, was summoned to do military service against the Scots, 24 June, 28 E. I., 1300, and was again summoned for the same purpose, 8 July, 34 E. I., 1306 [Palgrave's '*Parliamentary Writs*,' I. 736].

He died in the early part of the year 1308, and by the Inquisition on his death, taken at Meriet, 27 March, 1308, it was

found that John de Meriet, his son and heir, was on Wednesday next after the Feast of St. Michael, 1 E. II. (which corresponds with 4 October, 1307), of the age of ten years: consequently, his son and heir was born on 4 October, 1297 [Inq. p.m. of '*Johannes dominus de Meriet*,' 1 E. II. no. 62.]

As the Inquisition is much damaged, the following particulars—as to his lands, &c.—are taken from the abstracts thereof contained in Harl. MSS. 4120, p. 61, and Dods. MSS. 48, f. 8, whence it appears that, at the time of his death, he held the manor of Meriet of the King in chief by the service of one knight's fee; the hamlet of Lopene of Hugh Poyntz, by the service of the fourth part of one knight's fee; the hamlet of Stratton of the heir of Elias Daubeney (at that time under age and in the King's guardianship), in socage by the service of 1 lb of cummin per annum, all in Somerset; and lands in Castle-Carlton, Co. Lincoln, of the King in chief, by the service of the third part of one knight's fee.

On a separate piece of parchment attached to the Inquisitions of 1 E. II. no. 62, is the following summary of the valuations of the several manors of which he was seised at the time of his death:—"Extenta terrarum et tenementorum que fuerunt Johannis domini de Meriet defuncti qui de Rege tenuit in capite, facta per Walterum de Gloucester, escaetorem citra Trentam, videlicet;

Somerset:

Manerium de Meriet quod extenditur			
per annum	...	...	xlili. viis. iiid.
Hamelettum de Lopene	...	...	xiiiili. iiis. vd. ob.
Hamelettum de Stratton	...	...	viiiili. xvs. vd.

Lincoln:

Quedam terre & quedam tenementa			
in Castel-Carleton que extenduntur			
per annum	...	...	lxixli. xviiis. iiid.

Summa omnium terrarum & tenementorum predictorum	cxxxiiiili. iiis. vd. ob.
--	-----	-----	---------------------------

Et est tercia pars xliiii. viiis. id. ob. q^a, & tercia pars unius quadrantis."

On the 11 April, 1 E. II. (1308) the King by his Writ of Certiorari to Walter de Gloucester, the escheator on this side Trent, ordered a true valuation to be made of all the military fees and ecclesiastical advowsons held by John '*dominus*' de Meriet, and which on his death were seised into the King's hand. The valuation, taken at Meriet, is dated 12 May, 1 E. II. (1308), from which we learn that he held in chief the following fees, viz., the hamlet of Gosbradene, which Roger le Ware (Roger, baron La Warre) held under him by the service of a fifth part of a knight's fee; a virgate of land in Hengstrigge, held by Felicia, widow of Richard de Heydone; a virgate of land in Kyngesdon, held by Brian, son of Brian de Govys; a virgate of land there, held by John de Cary; tenements in Boklond, held by John Walrond; tenements in More by Sweperdon (South Pederton), held by John Weylond, and the advowsons of the churches of Meriet and Boklond (St. Mary) all in Somerset. The valuation returned from Co. Lincoln records half a knight's fee in Dalby, held under him by John de Hanington, and the advowson of the Chapel of Carleton [Inquisitions 2 E. II. no. 2].

(13). Margaret, wife and widow of John '*dominus*' de Meriet. The King—having assigned to her, out of her said late husband's lands, the hamlets of Lopene and Stratton, and 129 acres out of the demesne lands of the manor of Meriet, in Meriet, Egwode, Garston, and Slapsmore, in Somerset, to hold in dower—issued his Precept to Walter de Gloucester, the escheator on this side Trent, to give her livery of the same accordingly, dated at Windsor, 11 April, 1 E. II. (1308) [Close Roll, 1 E. II. m. 6].

The King likewise—having assigned to her out of the military fees and advowsons of her late husband, John de Meriet, deceased, the fourth part of a knight's fee in Boklond, Somerset, which John Walrond held, and which was of the annual

value of 50s., together with the advowsons of the church of Boklond (St. Mary), Somerset, worth 10 marks per annum, and of the chapel of Carleton, Co. Lincoln, worth 30s. per annum, to hold in dower—issued his further Precept to the same escheator to give her livery thereof accordingly, dated 12 November, 2 E. II. (1308) [Close Roll, 2 E. II. m. 17].

In the Returns of the names of the lords of townships, &c., for the purpose of effecting the military Levies ordained in the Parliament at Lincoln (in January, 9 E. II.)—made pursuant to separate Writs tested at Clipston (Co. Northampton), 5 March, 9 E. II. 1315-6, Margery Meriet (widow) is certified as holding part of the township of Great Lopene, Somerset, in dower [Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs].

Margaret de Meriet—by reason of her dowry—presented Roger de Acton-Burnell to the Church of Bockland St. Mary, on the resignation of Richard Molyns; and he was instituted accordingly on 2 kalends of March (28 February), 1328-9 [Register *Drokensford* at Wells:—Dr. Matthew Hutton's Extracts in Harl. MSS. 6964, p. 138].

(14). **John de Meriet**, son and heir of John 'dominus' de Meriet. By the inquisition taken on his father's death, he was found to have been born on 4 October, 1297 [Inq. p. m. 1 E. II. no. 62].

On 11 kalends of June (22 May) 1314, Philip, son of Andrew Sapiti, a Florentine, was instituted to the church of Meriet, on the presentation of the King as guardian of the lands, and heir—(during minority)—of John de Meryet, deceased. [Register *Drokensford*.]

In the Returns of the names of the lords of townships, &c., for the purpose of effecting the military Levies ordained in the Parliament at Lincoln (in January, 9 E. II.), made pursuant to separate Writs tested at Clipston (Co. Northampton), 5 March, 9 E. II., 1315-6, this John de Meriet is certified as *sole* lord of Meriet in the Hundred of Crukerne, and joint lord—with Henry de Urtiaco (del Orty)—of Bradeway (Broadway) and

the hamlet of Apse in the Hundred of Bulston, Somerset [Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs].

He died s. p. before he attained his legal majority, because in 1322 his brother George proved his age as son and heir of John de Meriet, deceased [Close Roll, 15 E. II. m. 3]. (See (15) of these Notes.)

(15). **George de Meriet of Castle Carlton**, was born about 1300-1; for—having, as son and heir of John de Meriet, deceased, proved his age before John Walwayn, the escheator beyond Trent, and done homage for all the lands and tenements which his father held of the King in chief,—the King, on 3 July, 1322, issued a Mandamus under his Privy Seal, to the same escheator to deliver to the said George de Meriet full seisin thereof [Close Roll, 15 E. II. m. 3]. But, notwithstanding this order, it would appear that he did not receive livery of the whole of the lands and appurtenances of his inheritance, for, as George de Meriet, he presented his Petition to the King in council, praying that—having come to full age—he might have restored to him the manors of Meriet and Lopen, Somerset, which, after the death of John de Meriet, his grandfather, and by reason of the nonage of John, son and heir of the said John de Meriet, were seised into the King's hand, and there retained until the coming of age of the said heir [Petitions to the King in Council, no. 5615]; and further, in 2 E. III. 1328—the year in which he died—the same George de Meriet, by a like Petition, sought to have restored to him the Fairs and Markets, which from before the Conquest and ever since, his ancestors had time out of mind peaceably held within their manors of Meriet and Lopen, down to the time of his grandfather, John de Meriet, when, by Solomon de Roucestre and Richard de Boyland, Justices-Itinerant of King Edward (E. I.), grandfather of our lord the King (E. III.) that now is, the said Fairs and Markets were seised into the King's hand and there remained, in consequence of the said John de Meriet's absence (*death*) and not putting

in his claim when the said Justices made their Iter in the County of Somerset. To which it was responded that, if—upon a Writ of Inquiry—it should appear that the said Fairs and Markets were seised into the King's hand for the cause assigned, the Petitioner should re-have the said Fairs and Markets upon payment to the King of the requisite fine [Petitions in Parliament, 2 E. III. no. 2 : from the MSS. of Sir Matthew Hale, Kt., as printed in the '*Rotuli Parliamentorum et Petitiones et Placita in Parlamento*,' II. 13^a].

Pursuant to Writ, tested at Westminster, 9 May, 17 E. II. 1324, George de Meriet was returned by the Sheriff of Somerset and Dorset (Thomas de Marleberge) as a Man-at-Arms (*Esquire*), and was summoned accordingly to attend the Great Council on the 30th following [Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs].

In Trinity term 1325,—having previously obtained the King's license—he, with Isabel his wife, conveyed, by Fine, to Margaret de Meriet (his mother), in fee, to hold to the use of himself and the said Isabel, his wife, for their joint lives, and—afterwards—to the use of his heirs, 27 messuages, 3 carucates of land, 40 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, and 7s. 10d. annual rent in Meriet—held of the King in chief, by the service of one knight's fee. Besides the messuages and lands included in the above conveyance, there remained to the said George de Meriet the manor of Castel Carleton, Co. Lincoln, held of the King in chief, by the service of a third part of a knight's fee [Inq. A.Q.D. 18 E. II. no. 147 ; Final Concord Som's, 18 E. II. no. 56, and Inq. p.m. 2 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 48].

On 18 kalends of July (14 June) 1325, Philip Bernardini, clerk, a Florentine, was admitted to the church of Meriet by his proctor, the Reverend Andrew Sapiti, rector of the church of St. Mary of Arches, London, on the presentation of George '*dominus*' de Meriet, Patron thereof [Register '*Drokensford*'].

Pursuant to Writ tested as Gloucester, 12 May, 19 E. II.

1326, George de Meriet was returned by the Sheriff of Dorset and Somerset (John de Erle) as holding—for two whole years last past—one knight's fee in Somerset of the full value of £40 a year, or lands or rent of the value, and as not having taken the degree of knighthood before the feast of Easter last past—in accordance with a former order:—he was therefore summoned to appear in Chancery to answer for his default within 15 days of the Feast of St. John Baptist next following (24 June—8 July, 1326)—[Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs].

By Letters Patent, tested at Westminster, 18 July, 20 E. II., 1326, he was—by special favour—respite from taking knighthood until the Feast of Michaelmas then next following (29 September, 1326)—[Pat. Roll, 20 E. II. m. 28: see Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs].

In December, 1326—pursuant to Writ of Certiorari, dated 4 October, 20 E. II. (1326), he—as George de Meriet, son and heir of John de Meriet (deceased)—obtained from the King the restoration of a messuage, ten acres of land, and one acre of meadow in Castle-Carlton, Co. Lincoln, worth 2s. per annum, and held of the King in chief as parcel of that manor, which John de Meriet, his father, had demised to John de Arderne for life, and which, on the death of the said John de Arderne—about six years past or more (in or before 1320)—were taken into the King's hand [Inquisition, 20 E. II. no. 10]. This Item and the Petitions to the King in Council—above cited—are corroborative evidences that John de Meriet, the elder brother of this George, had died whilst under age; and they serve to explain the absence of all notice of the manors of Meriet and Lopene in the Inquisition taken in Somerset on George de Meriet's death. It should also be borne in mind that, at the time of his decease, Margaret, his widowed mother, was surviving, and holding in dower the hamlets of Lopene and Stratton, with part of the demesne lands of the manor of Meriet, and the advowsons of the church of Bokland (St. Mary), Somerset, and of the chapel of Carlton, Co. Lincoln.

In April, 2 E. III. 1328, George de Meriet obtained the King's license on payment of a fine of one mark (13s. 4d.), to give and assign 20 acres of land, 5 acres of meadow and pasture—sufficient for the keep of two heifers, two oxen, and two cows, with the appurtenances in Castle-Carleton, Great Carleton, and Ryston—parcel of his manor of Castle-Carleton, of the annual value of 6s. 10d., to the chaplain of the chapel of St. John Baptist of Castle-Carleton, and his successors, celebrants of the said chapel, in augmentation of his maintenance. Besides the lands thus given, there remained to the said George de Meriet—not including lands and tenements in other counties—the manor of Castel-Carleton, which was held of the King in chief by military service, and worth £40 per annum [Inquisition, 2 E. III. (2 $\overline{\text{nrs}}$) no. 66].

By Inquisition taken at Crukern, Somerset, 17 December, 2 E. III. (1328)—pursuant to Writs of '*diem clausit*'—dated 6 November in the same year, it was found that George de Meriet, at the time of his decease, was not seised of any lands in Somerset in his demesne as of fee, but that he and Isabel, his wife, were—by Fine duly levied—jointly enfeoffed, for the term of their lives, of 27 messuages, 3 carucates of land, 40 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, and 7s. 10d. rent in Meriet (as is already recited), all which were worth £14 per annum, and held of the King in chief, by the service of one knight's fee; that John, son of the said George de Meriet, was his next heir, aged—at the date of making the inquisition—seven weeks; and that the advowson of the church of Meriet appertained to the King by reason of the minority of the said heir, and was worth £20 per annum. (According to the above dates, his son and heir was born on or about 28 October, 1328). By another Inquisition—pursuant to a like Writ—taken at Castle Carlton, Co. Lincoln, on Monday, 21 November, 2 E. III. (1328)—it was found that the same George de Meriet held in his demesne, as of fee, the manor of Castel Carleton with its appurtenances, of the King in chief, by the third part

of a knight's fee, together with lands and tenements in Riston and Carleton; that he died on 5 November last past, and that John de Meriet was his son and nearest heir, of the age—at the date of the inquisition—of twenty-eight days. (According to these dates, John de Meriet, the son and heir, was born on or about the 24 October, 1328.) [Inq. p.m. 2 E. III. (1 ^{nrs}) no. 48.]

(16). **Isabel**, wife and widow of George de Meriet of Castle-Carleton, and afterwards wife and widow of Sir John de Kirketon, chivaler. In the Mandamus, dated 8 July, 43 E. III. (1369), for issuing writs on her death, she is styled '*Isabella que fuit uxor Georgii de Meriet*' [Fines Roll, 43 E. III. m. 5]; but in the Writ of '*diem clausit*,' directed to Walter de Kelby, the escheator in Co. Lincoln, bearing date 12 October, 43 E. III. (1369), she is styled '*Isabella que fuit uxor Johis de Kirketon, chivaler.*' By the pursuant Inquisition, taken at Horncastle, Co. Lincoln, 20 October following, it was found that the said Isabel, '*que fuit uxor Georgii de Meriet*,' held, at the time of her death, of the King in chief, by military service, for the term of her life, a third part of the manor of Castel-Carleton, with its appurtenances, Co. Lincoln, in dower from the said George de Meriet, of the inheritance of Sir John de Meriet, chivaler (her son); which third part was of the annual value of £8. 17s. 4d. The said Isabel died on 3 July in the same year (1369), and John, son of the aforesaid Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, was her nearest heir of the said third part, because the said Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, of whose inheritance she held the said third part, was son and heir of the said George de Meriet, her former husband. It was also found that the same John, son of George de Meriet, died on Tuesday next after Michaelmas-day, 43 E. III. (2 October, 1369, which would be within three weeks of the date of taking the present Inquisition), and so the aforesaid John, son of the same John son of George, became the nearest heir of the same Isabel, and also of the aforesaid John, son of George, as well to the

third part of the said manor held in dower by the aforesaid Isabel for her life, as to the remaining two-thirds of the said manor which his father the aforesaid John, son of George, held in fee by inheritance after the death of the said George, which said two-thirds were likewise held of the King in chief by military service. And the aforesaid John, the son and heir of the same John, was (at the time of making the Inquisition) of the age of 23 years and upwards [Inq. p.m. 43 E. III. p. 1, (1 $\overline{\text{nrs}}$) no. 60.

(17). SIR JOHN DE KIRKETON, CHIVALER. Pursuant to a Writ of '*diem clausit*,' dated 27 February, 41 E. III. (1366-7), and directed to Walter de Kelby, the escheator in Co. Lincoln, an Inquisition on his death was taken at Horn-castle, on Thursday, in the first week in Lent, 41 E. III. (4 March, 1366-7), when it was found that the said John de Kirketon, chivaler, held no lands or tenements in the said county in his demesne as of fee, but that he held of the King by the service of one knight's fee and an annual rent of 40s., the castle and manor of Tateshale (Tattershall), with the appurtenances in Tateshale, Thorp, Parva Stretton, and Merton, for the term of his life, from Ralph de Cromwell and Matilda his wife, who demised the same for that purpose to Thomas de Wyke, clerk, Thomas de Kirkeby, parson of the church of Tateshale, Henry Asty, John de Wyke, and William Stel, with reversion over to the same Ralph de Cromwell and Matilda, and thè heirs of the said Matilda. In like manner, he held for his life the manor of Tumby with its appurtenances, in Marum (Mareham le Fen), the manor of Kirby on Baine, and lands in Woodhall, Langton by Thornton, Trusthorp, Sutton by Merkeby, Malteby by Strubby, and Wynthorp, and the manor of Sixell. The jury also found that he held, together with Isabel his wife, in right of her dower from George de Meriet, knight (*sic*), her former husband, a third part of the manor of Castel-Carleton with the appurtenances: which manor was held of the King in chief by the service of a fifth part of one

knight's fee, and the said third part thereof was of the annual value of £10. It was also found that he held, together with the said Isabel his wife, the manor of Kirketon-in-Holand, Co. Lincoln, for their joint lives by demise from Ralph, parson of the church of Broughton, and Thomas, parson of the church of Tateshale, with reversion over to John de Littelbyrs and his heirs; and the said Sir John de Kirketon, chivaler, and Isabel his said wife, accordingly, attorned to the said John de Lyttelbyrs, acknowledging his right of lordship: which manor of Kirketon was held of Sir William de Huntyngheld, chivaler, by the service of a third part of a knight's fee, and worth 20 marks per annum. The said Sir John de Kirketon died 20 February in the same year (1366-7), and Sir John de Ludeham, chivaler, John de Lyttelbyrs, John de Tylneye, and William de Sutton, parson of the church of Whitewell, were his nearest heirs, and all of full age [Inq. p.m. 41 E. III. (1 $\overline{\text{nrs}}$) no. 38]. He therefore died s.p.

(18). **Eleanor**, first wife of Sir John de Meriet, kt. senior. Their marriage must have taken place in or before 1345, as John de Meriet, her son and heir, was born in the spring of 1346, [see (23) of these notes]. Eleanor was younger daughter of John de Beauchamp, 3^d Baron Beauchamp of Hacche, Somerset, and sister and (in her son) coheir of John, 4th and last baron of that stock, whom she pre-deceased, which John died on 7th or 8th October, 1361, in his 31st year, having been born 20 January, 3 E. III. (1329-30) [Prob. ætat. 24 E. III.; Inq. p.m. of John de Beauchamp de Somerset, 35 E. III. pt. 1, no. 36; Inq. p.m. of Margaret, widow of John, 3^d Baron Beauchamp of Hacche, 35 E. III. pt. 1, no. 35; Inq. p.m. of Alice, widow of John, 4th Baron Beauchamp of Hacche, 7 R. II. no. 39; Dugdale's Bar. I. 254; Dodsworth's MSS. 130, fol. 48^b; Harl. MSS. 1052, fols. 113^b, 114, and Harl. MSS. 4120, fols. 173, 174, 218].

(19). **Sir John de Meriet, kt. Senior**. He was born between 24 and 29 October, 1328, son and heir of George de

Meriet of Castle-Carlton [see (15) of these notes]. The custody of his lands, if not the guardianship of his person, during his nonage, was committed by the King to Sir Gilbert Talbot, as we learn from a petition (in French) of John de Sencler and Alice his wife to the King in Council, in 8 E. III. (1334), complaining that, whereas an Assize was levied at their instance against John, son of George de Meriet, and others named in their brief, concerning the turning the course of the stream in Meriet, which was to the detriment of their free tenement in Cheselberg, whereby the profit of their water-mill in Cheselberg had been diminished to the average amount of 10 marks (£6. 13s. 4d) every year since the turning of the stream; and because the King had committed the custody of the manor of Meriet, which is held of him in chief, to Sir Gilbert Talbot during the nonage of John, the son of George de Meriet, the justices, on being shewn the King's grant, declined to hold the required assize: they, therefore, pray remedy. Whereupon, a Precept under the Great Seal was issued to the said Justices of Assize to make inquiry, and—if it could be proved to them that the turning of the said water-course was not done after the death of the said George de Meriet by the said John de Meriet, son of George, and others named in the said Brief of John de Sencler and Alice his wife—to proceed therein according to law. [Petitions in Parliament, 8 E. III. no. 57; from the Hale MSS. as printed in the '*Rotuli Parliamentorum*,' &c., II. 86^b].

Sir John de Meriet had married Matilda, his second wife, in or before May, 1362, as at that date he, as Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, for a fine of £20, obtained a license [Originalia Rolls, 36 E. III. rot 41] to convey his manors of Lopene and Stratton, Somerset, to Robert Sambourne, parson of the church of Meryet, and John Ford, to hold to the use of himself and Matilda his then wife for their lives, with remainder to his right heirs [Inq. 36 E. III. (2 nrs), no. 56].

On 26 June, 1360, Sir John de Meriet, Kt., presented to

the church of Meryet, John de Risingdon, on an exchange of churches with Robert de Sambourn for that of Ievele (Yeovil); and on 10 July, 1362, Robert de Sambourne was, accordingly, presented to the church of Ievele by Richard, Earl of Arundel [Harl. MSS. 6964, pp. 152 and 150].

On 11 March, 1361, Sir John de Meryet, Kt., presented Richard Beufitz to the church of Gosbradene, by reason of the minority of Henry, son and heir of Richard Bidewell [Harl. MSS. 6964, p. 145]. He is called *John de Meriet, Kt., senior*, in Close Roll, 21 R. II. pt. 2, m. 5; in Inq. p.m. of Matilda, his widow, who re-married Sir Thomas de Bokeland, Kt., 21 R. II. no. 5, and in Close Roll, 49 E. III. m. 15d.

Writs of '*diem clausit*' on the death of Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, dated 12 October, 43 E. III. (1369), were directed to the escheators of Somerset and Lincolnshire. Accordingly, an Inquisition was taken at Horncastle, Co. Lincoln, before Walter de Kelby, the escheator, 20 October, 43 E. III. (1369,—being the same day and place when and where the Inquisition on his mother's death was taken: see (16) of these notes)—when it was found that Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, deceased, held in his demesne two-thirds of the manor of Castel-Carlton of the King in chief, and the reversion of the remaining third part, which Isabel (his mother), who was wife of George de Meriet, his father, held in dower for the term of her life—of the inheritance of him, the said John de Meriet. The entire manor of Castel-Carleton was worth 40 marks (£26. 13s. 4d.) per annum. And the said Sir John de Meriet died at Calais, on Tuesday next after the Feast of St. Michael in the same year (2 October, 1369), and John, son of the aforesaid John de Meriet, was his nearest heir, of the age of 25 years and more. (This is an example of the inaccuracy which not unfrequently occurs in the Inquisitiones post mortem as to the age of the heir—as is shewn, in this instance, in (23) of these notes)—[Inq. p.m., 43 E. III. pt. 2 (1 nrs) no. 2].

The Somersetshire Inquisition, returned into Chancery, has

been much damaged and the greater portion torn off, and only a few words in each line near the left margin now remain. But, fortunately, a transcript of it exists in the Escheator's Accounts sent into the Exchequer, from which the following abstract is taken:—Pursuant to Writ (as above noted), an Inquisition was taken at Montagu (Montacute), Somerset, 7 November, 43 E. III. (1369), before William Cheyne, the escheator, on the oaths of John Bruyn, John Peytevyn, Richard Pointton, Robert Atte-Yerd, John Peny, Robert Hare, John Beyvyn, Maurice Homere, Robert Coker, John Lopenford, William Wayne and Robert Hayward,—when it was found that the said Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, at the time of his death, held in his demesne, as of fee, the manor of Meryet, with the advowsons of the church of the same manor, and of the church of Boclond St. Mary, of the King in chief, by military service, of the annual value of £30. 4s. 4d. He also held—together with Matilda, his wife who still survived,—for their lives, with remainder to his heirs, the manors of Lopene and Stratton, with the appurtenances, of the King in chief, by military service, worth per annum 20 marks (£13. 6s. 8d.) He held no other lands, &c., in the said county, and he died on 2 October, 43 E. III. (1369), and John de Meryet, his son, was his next heir, of the age of 23 years and more. [Exchequer: Escheator's Inquisitions, Somerset and Dorset, 42–44 E. III. William Cheyne, escheator; group VII.]—(marked '5 T' in pencil).

On 26 January, 49 E. III. (1374–5), a Writ of '*Certiorari*' was directed to Walter Cyfrewast, the escheator in Somerset, to ascertain the true value of all the military fees held of the King in chief and of the advowsons, of which this Sir John Meriet, chivaler, died possessed. Accordingly, an Inquisition was taken at Crukern, 7 February following, which contains full particulars as to the names of the sub-tenants, the extent and value of their holdings, the military service due thereon, and the locality of the fees. Out of the thirteen

several fees therein recorded, the following are taken as most worthy of notice :—(1) Sir John Chydyok, chivaler, the Abbot of Cerne, Andrew Crull, John Not, Alice Cary, and Roger Hore, held of John Meriet at the time of his death, two carucates of land in Atram (in the parishes of Netherbury and Whitchurch Canonicorum), Dorset, of the annual value of 100s., by the service of half a knight's fee; (2) John Cary held of him one carucate of land in Kingesdon of the annual value of 20s., by the service of a fourth of a knight's fee; (3) Sir John Weyland, chivaler, held of him a carucate of land in Hassokmore by South Pederton of the annual value of 60s., by the service of half a knight's fee; (4) John Hendynge held of him a carucate of land at Clystwelme, Devon, of the annual value of 26s. 8d., by the fifth of a knight's fee; (5) John Glastyngbury held of him a carucate of land in Gosebradene of the annual value of 40s., by the fifth of a knight's fee; (8) Sir William Cogan, chivaler, held of him half a virgate of land in Stratton of the annual value of 6s. 8d., by the sixth of a knight's fee; (10) Sir Guy de Bryan, chivaler, held of him a virgate of land in Kingesdon of the annual value of 13s. 4d., by the fifth of a knight's fee; (12) Stephen Derby, John Lough, and Richard Atte-Welle held of him a carucate, and half a virgate of land with the water-mill in Meriet of the annual value of 10s., by the fourth of a knight's fee. And the jury further said that the advowsons of the churches of Meriet and Bockland St. Mary—of the annual value (respectively) of 20 marks (£13. 6s. 8d.) and 10 marks (£6. 13s. 4d.)—were of the patronage of the said John Meriet.

On the back of the document a memorandum is written to the effect that, in consequence of this Inquisition a Writ was directed to the same escheator to assign to Matilda the widow of Sir John Meriet, chivaler, in the presence of John Dekne, clerk—whom Richard de Ravenser suffered to act as attorney for the said Matilda,—and in the presence of John Meriet, the

son and heir of the same John Meriet, the reasonable dower coming to her out of the fees and advowsons therein mentioned. [Inq. 49 E. III. pt. 2 (1 nrs) no. 15.]

(20). *Matilda*, second wife of Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, Senior, and executrix of his will. [De Banco Roll, Michmas, 19 R. II. m. 517.] In May, 1362, Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, settled a life estate upon her in his manors of Lopene and Stratton (as is already noticed). This settlement was confirmed by her step-son, Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, 7 February, 47 E. III. (1372-3), at which time she was wife of Sir Thomas de Bokeland, chivaler. [Inq. 3 R. II. no. 96.]

After the death of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., Senior, her first husband, which happened (as is already shown) on 2 October, 1369, the King by his precept, dated 12 November, 43 E. III. (1369), directed William Cheyne, the escheator in Somerset, to give her immediate possession of the manors of Lopene and Stratton, inasmuch as she held the same conjointly with Sir John de Meriet for the term of their lives with remainder to Sir John's heirs, and had already done fealty for the same since her husband's death. [Exchequer: Escheator's Inquisitions, Somerset and Dorset, 42-44 E. III. William Cheyne, escheator, (marked '46 T' in pencil).]

Two assignments of dower were made to her in her first widowhood—one by Indenture, entered into and dated at Meriet on Monday next after the feast of St. Andrew, Apostle, 43 E. III. (3 December, 1369), between William Cheygny, the escheator in Somerset of the first part; the counsel of Sir John de Meriet the son and heir of Sir John de Meriet, of the second part; and Matilda, the widow of the said Sir John de Meriet, senior, of the third part, whereby the said escheator, pursuant to the King's writ, delivered to the aforesaid Sir John de Meriet the son and heir, possession of two-thirds of the manor of Meriet, together with the advowson of the church of the same manor and the presentation thereto which appertained to the said two-thirds, for his turn, whenever the vacancy

should occur; and to the said Matilda—for her dower, contingent on the death of the aforesaid Sir John, her husband—he delivered possession of the remaining third part of the said manor of Meriet, together with the advowson of the church of the same manor and the presentation thereto which appertained to the said third part, for her turn, whenever the vacancy should occur. [Close Roll, 49 E. III. m. 15 dorse.] The other assignment of dower to Matilda, the widow of Sir John Meryot, chivaler, deceased, was made at Castle-Carlton, Co. Lincoln, on Tuesday next after Epiphany, 44 E. III. (7 January, 1370–1), out of the manor and capital mansion of Castel-Carleton. [Close Roll, 42 E. III. m. 1, dorse.] In each of these assignments of dower, minute particulars and descriptions are given.

Matilda married for her second husband, Sir Thomas de Bokeland, Kt., in or before 1371, by whom she had no issue, [see below (21) of these notes].

Shortly after the death of Sir Thomas de Bokeland her second husband, she—in her pure widowhood—on 10 March, 2 R. II. (1378–9), conveyed her life estate in the manors of Lopene and Stratton, and in a third part of the manor of Meriet, which latter she held in dower, to Sir William de Botreaux, chivaler, Walter Clopton, and John Dekne, to hold for the term of her life. From an Inquisition taken at Taunton, on 18 May, 3 R. II. (1380), before William Style, the escheator in Somerset by virtue of his office; and from Pleadings ‘coram Rege’ in chancery, at Northampton, on the morrow of St. Martin’s Day, 4 R. II. (12 November, 1380), it appears that after the death of Sir John de Meriet, her first husband, her step-son, Sir John de Meriet, Junior, being seised of (the reversion in fee of) the manors of Lopene and Stratton, gave the said manors on 16 August, 46 E. III. (1372), to Sir Guy de Briene, chivaler, Sir William de Bonville, chivaler, Henry Molyns, and John Stokes, in fee, and that they, on 7 February following, granted them, with all the appurtenances, to Sir Thomas

de Bokelond, chivaler, and Matilda his wife, to hold during the life of the aforesaid Matilda (thereby confirming her life estate in the same created by her first husband's settlement in 1362), both the above conveyances being made without previously obtaining the King's license of alienation; that the said Matilda, afterwards, in her pure widowhood, on 10 March, 2 R. II. (1378-9), demised her life estate in the said manor, or manors, of Lopene and Stratton, and in a third part of the manor of Meriet—of which latter she was seised in dower after the death of Sir John de Meriet her former husband—to Sir William de Botreaux, chivaler, Walter Clopton, and John Dekne, to hold for the term of her life, as is above recited; and that, at the time of taking the Inquisition, the said manor of Lopene was worth £20 per annum, and the said third part of the manor of Meriet, 20 marks (£13. 6s. 8d.). [Inquisitions 3 R. II. no. 96.]

We further learn from Pleadings 'coram Rege' in Chancery, on the morrow of St. Martin's Day, 5 R. II. (12 November, 1381), that, by Inquisition taken ex officio by William Style the escheator in Somerset, at Yvelchestre, 5 August, 5 R. II. (1381), it was found that Matilda, the widow of Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, demised to John Punchard and Alice his wife, for the term of their lives, a water-mill called '*le Neue Mulle*,' with its appurtenances in Great Stratton, worth 26s. 8d. per annum; and to John Spore and Editha his wife, and Andrew Spore their son, for their three lives, a garden with its appurtenances in Great Stratton, worth 16s. 8d. per annum, without obtaining the King's license, the said mill and garden being held of the King in chief. The allegation being disputed on the part of the said Matilda by her attorney, John de Fitelton, a day in the quinzaine of St. Martin following was appointed for hearing the case, *coram Rege*, wherever he might be in England, and doing what should be just therein. [Inquisition 5 R. II. no. 90, and Exchequer: Escheator's Inquisitions, Somerset and Dorset, 3-5 R. II. William Style, escheator.]

Pursuant to a writ of '*diem clausit*,' dated 16 March, 21 R. II. (1397-8), an Inquisition on her death—as Matilda, widow of Sir Thomas de Boukelond, chivaler—was taken at Crukern, Somerset, before Thomas Bathe the escheator, on 23d of the same month, when it was found that she held in chief by military service, for the term of her life, the manors of Great Lopene and Great Stratton by the feoffment [see (19) of these notes] of Robert Sambourne, cleric (parson of the church of Meriet), and John Ford, in 1362, to Sir John de Meriet, Kt., senior, and the aforesaid Matilda, at that time his wife, with remainder to Sir John's heirs in fee; she also held of the King in chief, in dower by dotation from the aforesaid Sir John de Meriet, Kt., senior, a third part of the manor of Meriet, with reversion to Sir John de Meriet, junior, son and heir of the said John de Meriet, senior.

The Inquisition then recites that the said John de Meriet, the son—being so seised of the reversion of the said manors of Great Lopene and Great Stratton and of the third part of the manor of Meriet, and of the fee in possession of the remaining two-thirds of the manor of Meriet, with other lands and tenements, by a fine levied in the King's court at Westminster (see Fin. Conc. Somerset, Micmas 47 and Micmas, 50 E. III. no. 88)—granted the whole to Sir Edmund de Arundell, Kt. (William de Boneville, Robert James), Henry Molyns, John Bevyn (and John Stokes), and the heirs of the said Henry Molyns; that, afterwards, the said Henry Molyns released all his right in the same to the said Edmund de Arundell and John Bevyn; that all the above grantees, excepting John Bevyn, were dead, and that then the aforesaid John Bevyn, the sole surviving feoffee, by a fine levied in the King's court (see Fin. Conc. Somerset, Easter 20 R. II. nos. 82 and 83), granted the reversion of one moiety of the said manors of Great Lopene, Great Stratton, and Meriet to Sir William Boneville, Kt. and Margaret his wife, for life, with remainders in tail-male to his sons Thomas, Hugh and William

Boneville in succession, failing which, with remainder to the heirs of the bodies of the said Sir William and Margaret; and the reversion of the other moiety of the same manors to Sir Humphry Stafford, Kt., and Elizabeth his wife, and their issue, failing which, with remainder to the said Elizabeth's right heirs, the King's license of alienation for both moieties having been previously obtained; and that the manors of Great Lopene and Great Stratton were worth 26 marks (£17. 6s. 8d) per annum, and the third part of the manor of Meriet was worth (illegible) . . . per annum. The jury also found that the said Matilda died on Monday next before the festival of St. Gregory the Pope last past (11 March, 1397-8), and George de Meriet was her son and nearest heir, of the age of 30 years and more. [Inq. p.m. 21 R. II. no. 5, and Close Roll 21 R. II. pt. 2, m. 12.]

She was buried in the parish church of St. Peter of South Pederton, Somerset. [Will of her son, George Meriet, Esq., 1410, Register '*Marche*,' fol. 166-7 in the Prerog. Crt. of Canterbury.]

Four weeks before her death, Matilda, as relict of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., by deed dated at Lopene, the Monday next after the feast of St. Scholastica, virgin, 21 R. II. (11 February, 1397-8), remitted and quit-claimed to Thomas de Meriet, her son, the whole of the manors of North-Stanlynch and Langeford, Wilts, with all lands, &c., to hold the same for ever. [Bodleian Charters: Wilts, no. 26.]

(21). SIR THOMAS DE BOKELOND, or Bouclonde, chivaler, of Radelynych, Wilts, and Nether Wallop, and other lands, co. Southampton and Wilts. He married Matilda, widow of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., senior, in or before 1371, as by deed, bearing date 6th May in that year, he conveyed to Robert de Samborn, parson of the church of Ievele (Yeovil), John de Waltham, parson of the church of Up-Wallop, and John Newe, chaplain, his manors of Monekebury in Up-Wallop, Bouclonde in Nether-Wallop, Berghton (Broughton), and

lands and tenements in Motesfont, co. Southampton, which descended to him by inheritance on the death of his brother, John de Bouclonde; and they by their deed, dated 20 May following, granted to Richard de Ravenser, archdeacon of Lincoln and John Ravenser, cleric, £40 of yearly rent for life, to be taken and received out of the said manors and lands; and by their further deed, dated 31 July following, the said Robert de Samborn, John de Waltham, and John Newe, re-granted and confirmed to the same Sir Thomas de Bouclonde, Kt., and Matilda his wife, and the heirs and assigns of Sir Thomas, the manors of Monekebury in Up-Wallop, Bouclonde in Nether-Wallop, and Berghton, with all lands and tenements in Motesfont as is aforesaid, which they had of his gift and enfeoffment, to have and to hold to them, Thomas and Matilda, and the heirs and assigns of the said Thomas for ever, with warranty. Thereto they appended their seals, in the presence of Sir Hugh Camoys, Kt., Sir Hugh Tirel, Kt., Peter de Brugge, William de Houghton, Edward Spercot, John Wallop, John Trenchard, and others. [Close Roll 45 E. III. memb's. 12 and 14 dorse.]

It has been already shewn in note (20) that on 16 August, 1372, 46 E. III., Sir John de Meriet, Kt. (son and heir of Sir John de Meriet, senior, deceased), conveyed the manors of Lopene and Great Stratton to Sir Guy de Briene, Sir William de Boneville, chivalers, Henry Molyns and John Stokes in fee, to hold to the use of Sir Thomas de Bokelond, chivaler, and Matilda his wife, for the term of the said Matilda's life, and the said feoffees confirmed her life estate in the same by their deed, dated 7 February, 47 E. III. 1373. [Inq. 3 R. II. no. 96.]

By a fine levied in Michaelmas term 1377, between Sir Thomas de Bouclonde, chivaler, and Matilda his wife, querents, and George de Meriet (her eldest son), John Edward, cleric, and John Dekne, (cleric), deforciant, the said Sir Thomas de Bouclonde conveyed to the latter his manors of Up-

Wallop and Nether-Wallop, a carucate of land in Burghton (Broughton), co. Southampton, his manor of Radelynche, and 60 acres of land and 6 acres of meadow in Beaupers, Wilts, to hold to the use of him, Sir Thomas, and Matilda his said wife and their joint issue: failing which, with remainder to John Wroth, and Margaret his wife, and their joint issue; failing which, with ultimate remainder to Sir Thomas's right heirs. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, Michmas, 1 R. II. case 8, no. 4.]

Sir Richard Colt Hoare, in his History of Modern Wilts, under the *Hundred of Downton*, iii. 44, states that John Wroth of Enfield, Middlesex, who died in 20 R. II., married Margaret, daughter and heir of Sir Thomas de Bokeland, Kt., of Radelynch, by Matilda his wife. This assertion cannot apply to the Matilda treated of above, who survived him: for though Sir Thomas de Bokeland may have been married more than once, it is expressly stated in the inquisition on his death (see below) that he died without issue. But, as this finding of the jury may have been restricted to the question of issue by Matilda his relict, it is possible that Margaret Wroth may have been his daughter by a former wife.

Writs of '*diem clausit*' on his death were issued on 28 January, 2 R. II. (1378-9), to Thomas Illeston, the escheator in the counties of Wilts and Southampton. By the pursuant Inquisition, taken at New Sarum, Wilts, on Thursday next after the feast of St. Peter-in-Cathedra, 2 R. II. (24 February 1378-9), it was found that Sir Thomas de Bokeland, chivaler, deceased, held no lands, &c., of the King in chief as of fee in the said county, but that he held of the Bishop of Winchester, service unknown, the manor of Wodefolde (Woodfield near Downton), for the term of his life, with remainder to John Wroth, and Margaret his wife, and their joint issue; failing which, with ultimate remainder to Sir Thomas's right heirs; and the said manor was worth 100s. per annum. He also held of the Bishop of Winchester by military service, the manor of Radelynche (near Downton), with 60 acres of land and 6 acres

of meadow in Beaupers, to hold to himself and Matilda his wife and their joint issue, which Matilda was surviving; with remainder—failing such issue—to John Wroth and Margaret his wife and their joint issue; and failing such issue with ultimate remainder to Sir Thomas's right heirs; and the said manor of Radelynche and land &c. in Beaupers were worth 100s. per annum. The aforesaid Sir Thomas de Bokeland died '*sine herede de corpore suo procreato*,' on 19 January last past (1378-9), and John Wroth, and Margaret his wife, she being of the age of 40 years and more, were his nearest heirs.

The Inquisition in the county of Southampton, was taken at Winchester, on Monday next before the feast of St. Peter-in-Cathedra, 2 R. II. (21 February, 1378-9), when it was found that Sir Thomas de Bokeland, chivaler, deceased, held no lands, &c., of the King in chief as of fee, but that some time before his death (in 1377) [Inq. 51 E. III. (2 nrs) no. 17] he gave the manor of Broklè (near Lymyngton), which he held of the King in chief by military service, and worth £6. 13s. 4d. per annum, to Mr. John Gilden (or Gulden), John Edward, cleric, John Colyngburne, and John Dekne (cleric), and their heirs; who, thereupon, regranted to Sir Thomas an estate therein in fee tail, viz., to hold to him and the heirs of his body; failing which with remainder to John Wroth and Margaret his wife and their joint issue; and failing such issue, with ultimate remainder to Sir Thomas's right heirs. He also had at the time of his death an estate in fee-tail in the manors of Up-Wallop and Nether-Wallop in the aforesaid county, held to himself and Matilda his wife—who still survived—and their joint issue; failing which, with remainder to John Wroth and Margaret his wife and their joint issue; and failing such issue, with ultimate remainder to Sir Thomas's right heirs. And the said manors were held in chief by fee-farm of the Prior of Noion (in France) and Treasurer of York, and were worth 100s. per annum. He also had an estate in fee-tail, and subject to the same conditions as those

affecting the two manors of Wallop, in a messuage and one carucate of land in Burghton (Broughton), which were held of the master of God's House in Portsmouth, in chief by the service of paying 8s. per annum, and worth 20s. per annum.

It has been already noticed that the conversion of his fee-simple estate in the two manors and land last above-mentioned, and in the manor of Radelynche and land in Beaupers, Wilts, into an estate in fee-tail was effected by the fine that Sir Thomas and Matilda his wife levied in Michaelmas, 1377: which was evidently done to provide a suitable maintenance for his wife in case she should survive him.

It was also found that he had an estate in fee-tail in two messuages and one carucate of land and 16 acres of meadow in Stokebrigge held of the Duke of Lancaster, service unknown, of the value of 10s. per annum, held to himself and Matilda his wife—who still survived—and their joint issue; failing such issue, with remainder to Sir Thomas's right heirs. He held no other lands, &c., in the aforesaid county, and he died '*sine herede de corpore suo procreato*,' on 19 January last past (1378-9), and John Wroth, and Margaret his wife, she being of the age of 40 years and more, were his nearest heirs. [Inq. p.m. 2 R. II. no. 12.]

(22). **Joan**, first wife of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., junior. Her husband—as John, son of John de Meriet and '*consanguineus*' and heir of John de Beauchamp of Somerset—conveyed his manor of Welweton, near Midsomer-Norton, Somerset, to Sir Laurence St. Martin and Robert Louch, in fee, to hold the same to the use of himself, Johanna his wife and their joint issue, with remainders, first to his own issue, then to the issue of Sir John de Meriet, chivaler (his father), and lastly to his own right heirs. This conveyance was made under the sanction of an Inquisition *ad quod dampnum*, taken at Montacute on 6 June, 42 E. III. (1368), by William Cheyne, the escheator of Somerset, by virtue of a writ dated 22 May, 42 E. III. (1368). [Inq. 42 E. III. (2 *nrs*) no. 40.] Connected

with this matter his father, as Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, and he as John, son of John de Meriet, entered into their several recognizances, dated 23 May, 1368, to pay to Sir Laurence St. Martin, chivaler, sums of £1,000 each, in the quinzaine of Michaelmas next to come. [Close Roll 42 E. III. m. 7 in dorso.] From this we may infer that Joan's marriage took place shortly before this date. She died without surviving issue in or before 1373, as is shewn below in note (23).

(23). **Sir John de Meriet, kt., Junior.** The writ for taking proof of his age, wherein he is styled '*Johannes filius Johannis de Meriet, consanguineus et unus heredum Johannis de Beauchamp de Somerset defuncti,*' is dated 20 May, 42 E. III. (1368), and directed to William Cheyne the escheator of Somerset. By the pursuant probate taken at Montague (Montacute), 6 June following, on the oaths of John Leddrede, John Toner, John Knyght, John Cothull, John Fosse, John Gyge, Robert atte Yard, Henry Molyns, Robert Coker, John Burty, Nicholas Dynyngton and Henry Estfeld, it was found that he was born on Friday, in the vigil of the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary, 22 years before, viz., in the 20th year of the King's reign (24 March, 1345-6), and baptised in the church of Dondene, and Alianore was his mother. [Inq. 42 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 81.]

His mother's brother, John, fourth Baron Beauchamp of Hacche, died 8 October, 1361, s.p., when Cecilia de Seymour, his sister, and this John de Meriet, son of his deceased sister Alianor, or Eleanor, were his nearest heirs. [Inq. p.m. 35 E. III. pt. 1, no. 36.] But as John de Meriet was under age at that time, his share of the inheritance of the Beauchamp manors and lands was committed to the guardianship of Philippa, the King's Consort. After having proved his age, as is above shewn, and doing fealty for his purparty of the Beauchamp inheritance, full seisin thereof was granted to him by the King's precept, directed to the several escheators in the counties of Somerset, Devon, Cambridge, Wilts, Berks,

Gloucester, Kent, and Surrey, dated 16 July, 1368, his homage being respited to the feast of St. Michael next following. [Close Roll 42 E. III. m. 11 recto.] Besides other manors and lands thus inherited from the Beauchamps, he came into possession of the manors of Welweton in Midsomer-Norton, and a moiety of Shepton Mallet, Somerset, and Dullyngham, co. Cambridge.

By deed, dated at London on Monday next after St. Martin's day, 42 E. III. (13 Nov. 1368), he granted the manor of Dullyngham, with its appurtenances called Beauchamps, co. Cambridge, to Sir Aubrey de Veer, Kt., John de Sudbury, Robert de Naylynghurst, cleric, and Clement Spice, to hold to them and the heirs and assigns of the said Robert de Naylynghurst, with warranty. [Close Roll 42 E. III. m. 7, in dorso.]

On the death of his grandmother, Margaret, widow of John, 3d Lord Beauchamp of Hacche, 21 November, 1361, he succeeded to the inheritance of the manors of (Compton)-Dondene and Brode-Mershton, Somerset. [Inq. 35 E. III. pt. 1, no. 35.]

On 22 May, 1368, two days after the writ for taking probate of his age was issued, he, as John, son of John de Meriet and cousin and heir of John de Beauchamp of Somerset, obtained a writ of inquiry whether it would be to the King's damage to grant him leave to convey the manor of Welweton to feoffees to hold to the use of himself and Joan his wife and their joint issue, with remainders over, 1st to the heirs of his body, 2d to the heirs of the body of John de Meryet, chivaler (his father), and 3d to his own right heirs (see (22) of these notes). [Inq. 42 E. III. (2 nrs) no. 40.]

A precept, dated 15 November, 43 E. III. (1369), was issued to William Cheyne, the escheator in Somerset, to deliver to John, the son of Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, deceased, full seisin of all the lands and tenements of which his father was seised in his demesne as of fee, after taking security from the said John de Meriet, the son, for the payment of his relief into the exchequer:—reciting that, whereas Sir John de Meriet

(the father), deceased, who held of the King in chief, was in attendance on the King in his military expedition beyond sea and was there tarrying at the time of his death, the King had respited the son's homage and fealty to the octaves of Hilary next future (January, 1369-70). [Exchequer: Escheators' Inquisitions, &c., Somerset and Dorset, 42-44 E. III., William Cheyne, escheator (marked '51 T' in pencil).]

The following interesting particulars respecting Lopen fair are derived from a mutilated record in the same series of Accounts and Inquisitions, 42-44 E. III., delivered into the Exchequer by William Cheyne, the escheator in Somerset. Though the year of the King's reign, with other particulars towards the right hand margin of the parchment, is torn off, there is internal evidence to show that this Inquisition could not have been taken earlier than 44 E. III., 1370, consequently it may be assigned to that year. William Cheyne became escheator in Somerset and Dorset, in succession to John de Bekynton, 27 December, 41 E. III., 1367, and resigned the office to Edmund Cheyne, 11 November, 45 E. III., 1371, and the bundle, or file, of his Escheator's Accounts and Inquisitions, delivered to the King's Remembrancer of the Exchequer, comprises the years 42-44 E. III., that is from the commencement of his term of office at the close of the year 1367 to the end of 1370, or 24 January following, which would close the regnal year 44 E. III.

By Inquisition, taken at Montagu (Montacute), Somerset, 6 June [44 E. III. 1370], before William Cheyne the escheator, on the oaths of John Burnel, (2) Robert Goulde, (3) Geoffrey (4) (5) John Lopeneford, (6) John Burnel de Chilton, (7) John Denebaud, (8) John Hamelyn, (9) Thomas Dynham, (10) William Maio[r, (11) (12) (Totten)esse], it was found that John de Meriet, the great grandfather (*'proavus'*) of John de Meriet that "now is" [was seised of a fair] appertaining to his manor of Lopene, which manor was held of the King in

chief; that on the death of the said John de Meriet, the great grandfather (in 1308), [see (12) of these notes] the said manor of Lopene, with its [appurtenances was seised] into the hand of the King (E. II.), father of the King that "now is," who granted the aforesaid fair to Gilbert Talbot, to farm, at the annual rent of 50s. [], so the said fair remained in the hand of the aforesaid King; and that the said fair of Lopene lasted for [seven days, viz., from the feast] of Pentecost till the morrow of Holy Trinity. They further said that a certain fair had, in the meanwhile, been newly set-up at Seint Wy[te, *White Down* near Chard?], and yearly held from the feast of Pentecost in 35 E. III. (1361) "till now," to the damage of the aforesaid fair of Lopene; and that Richard Cogan and Elizabeth de Clyvedon had annually received and taken the issues and profits of the aforesaid fair of Seint Wyte [

from the feast of] Pentecost, in the year aforesaid (1361), to the "present time." In witness whereof, &c. [Exchequer: Escheators' Accounts and Inquisitions, Somerset and Dorset, 42-44 E. III. William Cheyne, escheator, marked "24 T" in pencil.] In the absence of the writ designating the purpose for which the above Inquisition was taken, it may reasonably be assumed that John de Meriet, junior, after the death of his father in October, 1369, appealed to the King in council for a restoration to him of the issues and profits of the said fair of Lopen.

It has been already shewn [see note (14)] that in 1314, the King (E. II.) was guardian of the lands and heir of John de Meriet, deceased, who died in 1308; also that in 1328, George de Meriet, his son and heir [see note (15)], petitioned the King in council to have the ancient fairs and markets within his manors of Meriet and Lopen restored to him, which had been taken into the King's (E. I.) hand on the death of his grandfather; and likewise that, on the death of George de Meriet in 1328, the custody of the lands of his son and heir, John de Meriet, during his nonage, was granted [see note (19)]

to Sir Gilbert Talbot, who is evidently identical with the Gilbert Talbot named in the above Inquisition as crown farmer of the issues and profits of Lopen fair.

Regarding the two chartered fairs above mentioned, I am indebted to Dr. Norris of South Petherton for the following information :—

Lopen fair, anciently held for seven days from the feast of Pentecost till the morrow of Trinity Sunday, degenerated at a later period to a sort of festival called '*Lopen Play*,' held on Trinity Tuesday, when such sports as wrestling, single-stick, and cudgel playing took place. According to tradition, it was at '*Lopen Play*' that Cardinal Wolsey, when only a school-master at Limington near Ilchester, in the time of H. VII., got drunk and disorderly, and was in consequence clapped in the stocks by the first Sir Amias Poulett of Hinton St. George. [Godwin's *Annals*, 28, and Collins's *Peerage* by Brydges, IV. 3.] About 71 years ago the western stage coaches from Exeter to London adopted the road from Ilminster to Ilchester as part of their route, when a road side public, or horse changing, house was built at White Cross—a short half mile to the north of the village of Lopen—at the junction of four cross-roads. To inaugurate the opening of this house, the Lopen fair sports were, for the first time, held at White Cross. Of late years—in order not to clash with the more important fair of Somerton—the day for holding Lopen Play has been altered to Trinity Wednesday. This annual festival has much dwindled, and now consists, mainly, of a gingerbread stall set-up in the village street.

The fair at St. Wyte, or White Down fair, is held annually on Whit-Monday and Tuesday, on a piece of waste land on the south side of White Down, adjoining Lord Bridport's lodge gate in the parish of Cricket St. Thomas, and distant about five miles from White-Cross in Lopen. At the present time a horse fair takes place on the first day, and one of live-stock on the second, when a good number of gipsy horses,

cattle and sheep are collected there. Within a century there was also a *Carriage-day*, as it was called, when, in fine weather, the gentry for many miles around met and disported themselves, feasting and dancing on the green sward. Wrestling, cudgel-playing, and single-stick prevailed there until a comparatively late date.

St. Whyte, or Wyte, virgin and martyr, registered in the Roman calendar 3 October by the name of S. Candida [Coker 16, 17], was a popular saint in this part of Somerset and in Dorset. According to William de Worcestre, her remains lie buried in a church, dedicated to her on the day of Pentecost, called after her '*Whyte chyrch*,' some miles from Cherde (Chard). [Nasmith, 90, and 163.] White-Down, three miles east of Chard, is supposed to be the site of this church.

But it appears from an article on St. White in a recent number of *Notes and Queries*, contributed by Canon Edmund Venables, that both the name and the Saint—by a process of transformation and impersonation—are derived from the exceptional use, in primitive times, of white stone in the structure of churches in lieu of wattle and daub; as for example, St. Ninian's church in Galloway, according to Bede, was called, '*Ad Candidam Casam*,' because it was built of stone. This is now Whithern, the white place. And so with regard to the various Whit churches scattered over England, the origin of the name is the same. It is one of these (Whitchurch Canonicorum in the vale of Marshwood between Bridport and Lyme) which has given birth to St. White, Sancta Candida, to whom the church was supposed to be dedicated, and whose sacred well was shown in the old topographer Coker's time. [*Notes and Queries*, 6th S. v. 455.]

In the year 1372, which was the third year after his father's death and the fourth after making proof of his age, Sir John de Meriet, junior, began to part with the manors and lands of his inheritance. It has been already shewn [note (20)] that

in August, 1372, he conveyed his estate in reversion in the manors of Lopen and Stratton to Sir Guy de Briene and Sir William Bonville and others in fee.

In the same year, as Sir John de Meriet, Kt., he obtained the King's license, on paying a fine of 60s., to grant to Henry Molyns, to hold for life, the manor of Brixham with its appurtenances in Devon, which manor came to him by inheritance, as co-heir of Sir John de Beauchamp of Somerset. [Originalia Rolls, 46 E. III. rot. 37.]

In the same year, Sir John Pert, chivaler, paid a fine of £40 for license to acquire from Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, the reversion of the manor of Castle-Carlton, co. Lincoln, after the death of Matilda, widow of Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, senior, and then wife of Sir Thomas de Bokeland, Kt., to hold to Sir John Pert and Elena his wife and his heirs. [Originalia Rolls, 46 E. III. rot. 37.] This alienation was carried into effect 2 October, 47 E. III. (1373). [Inquisition pursuant to a Writ of '*Pluries*,' directed to the escheator in co. Lincoln, taken at Gaundford-brigge, 24 April, 1387, 10 R. II. no. 54.] After the death of Sir John Pert in 1386 [Inq. p.m. 10 R. II. no. 30], Elena, his widow, on 5 December, 1386, sold her life interest therein to Michael de-la-Pole, Earl of Suffolk, and others, for an annual rent of 100 marks (£66 13s. 4d); and three days after, viz., 8 December, 1386, Sir Robert Pert, Kt., son and heir of the said Sir John Pert, deceased, released and quit-claimed all his right in the same manor to the said Earl of Suffolk and others, their heirs and assigns. [Inq. 10 R. II. no. 54.]

On 12 April, 1373, as Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, he obtained a writ of inquiry '*ad quod dampnum*', regarding his granting a lease to John Canoun, or Canon, of Lopene, and Isolda his wife, for their lives, of a messuage, a water mill, and one carucate of land with the appurtenances in Meriet, at a nominal annual rent of a rose, with reversion to himself and his heirs. By the pursuant Inquisition, taken at Croukern on

Saturday next after the Nativity of the blessed Mary, 47 E. III. (10 September, 1373), before Adam atte-More, the escheator in Somerset, on the oaths of Robert Goulde, John Beyvyn, Thomas Dynham, John Lopenford, Nicholas Deyer, Hugh Trokel, Robert le Hare, William Davy, John Serle, William Donham, Roger, and Tottenesse, it was found that the granting of the said lease was not to the King's damage, and that the premises so granted were parcel of the manor of Meriet, which was held of the King in chief and worth per annum 26s. 8d. It was also found that over and above the said sum, there remained to the said John de Meriet two-thirds of the manor of Meriet, worth 100s. per annum; the manor of Brode Mersshton, held of the Earl of Hereford by military service, worth 66s. 8d. per annum; and the manor of Dondene, held of the Abbey of Glastonbury by military service and worth 100s. per annum. [Escheat 47 E. III. (2 $\overline{\text{nr}}$ s) no. 84.] From what follows it would appear that this estate for lives must have been enlarged into an estate in fee, for the said John Canon, after the death of Isolda his wife, and in contemplation of his marriage with Isabel, daughter of Robert Split, by deed dated 4 November, 1378, enfeoffed John Hayward, chaplain, and John Bulbek, to hold to the use of himself and the said Isabel and their joint issue, with remainder to himself and his right heirs, all his lands and tenements, and particularly the water mill at Le Bowe and Cr pe in Meriet; one acre and a half of meadow in Lyvemore; ten acres and a half of meadow in Northdon in the parish of Meriet, and 6s. of rent arising out of a tenement called '*Bevynys-place*,' in Lopene, together with the reversion of a third part of all the aforesaid premises which Matilda, widow of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., was holding for the term of her life, and which premises were worth £10 per annum. But notwithstanding the above enfeoffment, the said John Canon, on Saturday before the feast of the translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, 3 R. II. (2 July, 1379), gave and

granted all the aforesaid lands and tenements, mill, meadow, rent and reversion to John Rodeston. [Exchequer: Escheator's Inquisitions, Somerset and Dorset, 3-5 R. II. William Style, escheator.]

By Inquisition, taken at Montacute, Somerset, on 16 August, 1395, it was found that John Rodeston, or Radeston, died on 13 April, 1395, holding in fee of the King in chief, a toft and 40 acres of land, which he bought of Sir John de Meriet in 1374, and 4 acres of meadow, all in Meryet, and worth 25s. per annum; and holding of Elizabeth (Matilda), widow of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., by military service, a messuage, 20 acres of land and 2 acres of meadow in Meryet, worth 10s. per annum. [Inq. p.m. 19 R. II. no. 39; Escheats 48 E. III. (1 *ñrs*) no. 81, and 10 R. II. no. 60.]

We learn from proceedings taken in consequence of a writ of '*Certiorari*,' dated 20 November, 1387, that after the death of John Canon, Isabel his second wife and relict married, circa 1386, Richard Slade, who, in her right and during her life, held all the lands and tenements, the mill, meadows and pastures which the said John Canon formerly held at Le Bowe, Crepe and Northdon in the parish of Meryet; and that the said Richard Slade and Isabel his wife granted and demised the same to Sir Philip Courtenay, Kt., Walter Reynell, Robert Split, William Pencrich, William Hamond, and John Godfray, to hold during the life of the said Isabel. [Inquisition, 11 R. II. no. 70, and Fines Roll, 12 R. II. m. 28.] In Michaelmas term, 1395, John Hayward, chaplain, Richard Slade and Isabel his wife, as executors of the will of Robert Split her father, brought an action against Matilda, widow of Sir John Meryet, Kt., senior, and executrix of his will, to recover four marks. [De Banco Roll: Michaelmas 19 R. II. m. 517.]

Sir John Beauchamp of Somerset, who died 7 or 8 October, 1361, s.p., was seised in fee of the manors of Hacche-Beauchamp, Stoke-under-Hamedon, Stokelynych, Welweton, a moiety of the

manor of Shepton-Malet, and the advowsons of the churches of Shepton-Beauchamp, Hacche-Beauchamp, and Stokelynych-Maudeleyn, and of other parts of divers manors, lands, &c. in Somerset and elsewhere, leaving Alice, his wife, surviving, to whom an assignment of dower was made in Chancery of the manors of Stoke-under-Hamedon, Stokelynych, and a third part of a moiety of the manor of Shepton-Malet, and of the advowsons of the churches of Shepton-Beauchamp and Stokelynych. Afterwards, the said Alice (probably in contemplation of her marriage with Sir Matthew de Gourney), in her pure widowhood, by her deed, gave and granted all her estate in the said manors and advowsons to her brother Sir William Beauchamp of Warwyk, chivaler, Sir William de Burton, chivaler, Henry d' Ardern, and John Northampton, clerk. Following thereupon, Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, to whom, as one of the heirs of the said John Beauchamp of Somerset, the reversion of a moiety of the said Alice's dower belonged, by his deed, dated 26 May, 47 E. III. (1373), released to the same grantees the whole of his right and claim therein [Inq. p.m. of Alice, wife of Sir Matthew de Gourney, chivaler, 7 R. II. no. 39], together with his estate in fee in possession in the manor and advowson of the church of Sulferton (Silverton), Devon, the manor and advowson of the church of Sheperton and the manor of Lutlyngton (Littleton), Middlesex, all which came to him by inheritance from the Beauchamps of Somerset. [Close Roll, 8 R. II. m. 28 dorse.]

Afterwards, Alice married Sir Matthew de Gourney, chivaler, and she died 27 October, 7 R. II., 1383, s.p., at which time her brother, Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, of the age of 40 years and more, was her next heir; and the Lady Cecilia Turbervyle, of the age of 50 years and more, was found to be the other sister and coheir of the said John Beauchamp of Somerset. [Inq. p.m. 7 R. II. no. 39.]

In relation to her marriage with Sir Matthew de Gourney, and to make provision for her husband and their possible

issue, the same Alice, in or about the year 1374, gave and granted to her brother, Sir William Beauchamp of Warwick, chivaler, Sir Nicholas de Berkeleye, chivaler (of Dursley), Sir William de Burton, chivaler, Sir Walter Bluet, chivaler, Richard Cradock, clerk, Henry d' Ardern, and John Broke, her dower estate in the manor of Stoke-under-Hamedon and the advowson of the church of Shepton-Beauchamp; and Sir John de Meriet, also, released to the same grantees all his estate in reversion in a moiety of the said manor and advowson. The same grantees, likewise, acquired in fee from the said Sir John de Meriet his manor of Welweton with its members of Midsomers-Norton and Wydecombe, and the advowson of the church of Hacche-Beauchamp in Somerset; a third part of a moiety of the manor of Sellynge, Kent, and 50s. of rent in Magor, co. Gloucester (Monmouth), all which was part of his inheritance from the Beauchamps of Somerset; and the said grantees entered into the whole without obtaining the King's license. The King, upon their petition, being willing to pardon their transgression in this respect, and further to allow them to give and grant the said manor of Welweton; the moieties of the manor of Stoke-under-Hamedon and of the advowson of the church of Shepton-Beauchamp; the advowson of the church of Hacche-Beauchamp; a third part of a moiety of the manor of Sellynge, and 50s. of rent in Magor to Sir Mathew de Gourney, chivaler, and the said Alice, at that time his wife, to have and hold to them and their joint issue, with remainder to Sir Matthew's right heirs, directed his Writs of *Certiorari* to the escheators in Somerset and Kent, dated respectively 4 September and 5 October, 48 E. III. (1374), to make inquiry whether it would be to the King's damage to grant their petition. [Inq. 48 E. III. (2 nrs) no. 7.] Upon the return of the pursuant Inquisitions to the effect that it would not be to the King's damage, and the payment into chancery of a fine of £30, the King issued his pardon accordingly, dated 20 November, 48 E. III. (1374). [Originalia Rolls, 48 E. III. rot. 33.]

Hence we may conclude, considering that in May, 1368 (as is already shewn), Sir John de Meriet, junior, brought his manor of Welweton into settlement upon himself and Joan his wife and their joint issue, that, in 1374, Joan his wife was dead, and that all possibility of issue by her was extinct.

In 1385, Cecilia Turberville, the surviving sister and coheir of Sir John Beauchamp, by deed, bound herself, under certain conditions, to make to Sir Matthew Gourney and his heirs a feoffment of her moiety of the manor of Stoke-under-Hamedon and of the chapel of the same. [Indenture in Norman French: Close Rolls, 9 R. II. m. 21.] This she did accordingly, for it is stated in an Inquisition A.Q.D., taken at South Pederton, pursuant to Writ, dated 21 July, 13 R. II. 1389, that she had enfeoffed Sir William Beauchamp of Warwick, Sir John de Clynton, Sir John Devereux, Sir Gilbert Talbot, Sir Ivo Fitz Waryn, Sir Bernard Brocas, Sir Tho. West, and Sir John Seyntclere, Kts., Will. Tarent, clerk, and John Janet, in her moiety of the same manor and chapel, to hold for their lives with remainders, first to Sir Matthew and Philippa, his then wife, and their joint issue, and secondly to Sir Matthew's right heirs. [Inq. 13 R. II. no. 81.] Philippa was daughter and eventually coheir of Sir John Talbot, Kt., of Ricard's Castle, co. Hereford, and widow of Sir Robert Assheton, Kt., of Puteney-Lorty, Somerset (who died 7 R. II. s.p.). She survived Sir Matthew de Gourney, and married thirdly Sir John Tiptoft, Kt. (summoned as a Baron to Parliament, 20 H. VI.), and was his first wife. She died 3 May, 1417, s.p. [Inq. p.m. 5 H. V. no. 40.]

By final agreement in April, 1372, and again in January, 1373-4, between William de Bonville, chivaler, querent, and John Meriet, chivaler, deforciant, Sir John de Meriet, for the sum of 200 marks (£133. 6s. 8d) paid by the former, conveyed to Sir William his *estate in reversion* in the manor and advowson of the church of Bradford by Welyngton, Somerset, and the manor of Sachevyles-culme by Bradenynche, Devon, viz., to

hold the said manor and advowson of Bradeford to Sir William for life, with remainder to Nicholas (Bonville) his son, in tail-male, after the expiration of the several life estates therein, firstly of Margery, at that time wife of Thomas de Welyngton, and, secondly, of Thomas Tryvet if he should survive the said Margery; and as regards the manor of Sachevyles-culme, to hold the same to Sir William and his heirs on the death of the said Thomas Tryvet, who held the same for the term of his life. [Feet of Fines, Divers Counties, 47 E. III. case 7, no. 749.]

By agreement in Michaelmas term, 1372, and again in Michaelmas, 1373, between Guido Briene, chivaler, querent, and William de Bonevill, chivaler, deforciant, the said Sir William Bonville, for the sum of £200 sterling paid by the former, granted for himself and his heirs, to Sir Guy de Briene and his heirs, his reversion of the manor and advowson of the church of Bradford by Welyngton, Somerset, upon the several deaths, of Margery, at that time wife of Thomas de Welyngton, who was holding the same for her life, and, secondly, of Sir Thomas Tryvet, chivaler, who likewise had a life estate in the same in succession to the said Margery in case he survived her. [Feet of Fines, Somerset, 39-51 E. III. viz. 47 E. III. no. 74 old nos.]

By further agreement in May, 1374, between Henry Percehay and Isabel his wife, John Beaumont, chivaler, Thomas de la Pomeray, James de Chuddelegh, Richard de Sydenham, John de Fillegh, Richard Warre and William Warre, his brother, querents, and Guido de Bryene, chivaler, deforciant; and again, between the same parties, in January, 1380-1, after the death of the aforesaid Henry Percehay, Sir Guy de Bryene for the sum of 500 marks silver (£333. 6s. 8d.), paid to him by the first party, granted, for himself and his heirs, his reversion of the manor of Bradford by Welyngton, and the advowson of the church of the same manor to the said Henry Percehay, Isabel his wife and the others, and the heirs of the

said Henry Percehay, subject to the several life estates therein of Margery, wife of Thomas de Welyngton, and Sir Thomas Tryvet, chivaler, as is above recited. [Feet of Fines, Somerset, 1-11 R. II., viz., 4 R. II. no. 26.]

Thus the manor and advowson of the church of Bradford came by purchase to Sir Henry Percehay, Kt., and so passed to his heirs, whereby a moiety of the manor descended to Richard Warre of Hestercombe, as coheir of Percehay.

Sir Henry Percehay rose to eminence as a lawyer in the reign of Edward III. He became a Baron of the Exchequer 5 October, 49 E. III., 1375, and was made a puisne Justice of the Common Pleas, 26 November, 1 R. II., 1377. He died between the end of June and the beginning of October, 1380, possessed, as we learn from the Final Concords, of the manor of Gerberdeston, Somerset, in 1365. In 1367 he acquired the reversion, contingent on the death without issue of his kinsman William Claville (which afterwards occurred), of the manors of Burlescombe and Kitton, Devon, and a moiety of the manor of East Morden, Dorset. These, likewise, came by inheritance to Richard Warre of Hestercombe. In 1374 he acquired (as shewn above) the manor and advowson of Bradford by Welyngton, and in the year following (as shown below) the manors of Hestercombe and Combe-flory.

In 47 E. III. (1373), Sir John de Meriet, Kt., conveyed to Richard Palmer and others in fee his manors of Comton-Dondene and Brode Mershton, Somerset, and they re-conveyed the same to hold to Sir John and Elizabeth his wife and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder, on failure of such issue, to Sir Matthew de Gournay, Kt., in fee. [Ilchester muniments.]

By agreement in Michaelmas term, 1373, and again in Michaelmas, 1376, between Sir Edmund de Arondell, Kt., William de Boneville, Robert James, Henry Molyns, John Bevyn, and John Stokes, querents, and Sir John de Meriet, Kt., deforciant, the said Sir John de Meriet, for the consideration of 500 marks (£333. 6s. 8d.) paid to him by the first parties,

granted to them his manors of Dondene and Brode-Mershton, and two-thirds of the manor of Meriet; the reversions of the manors of Great-Lopene and Great-Stratton, and of the remaining third of the manor of Meriet after the death of Matilda then wife of Sir Thomas de Bokeland, Kt.; the reversions of the manors of Hestercombe, Wyke (by Taunton), Combeflory, and Elleworth (Elworthy); a moiety of the manors of Wydecombe (Withycombe by Dunster), and Brompton-Ralf, and messuages and lands in Okecombe, Legh, Plassh, Cerneheye (by Taunton) and Sandland, after the expiration of the several life interests therein, firstly, of Margery, who was then the wife of Thomas Welyngton, and secondly of Thomas Tryvet (if he should survive the said Margery); and the reversion of a tenement and lands in Lymington, after the life estate therein of John Passeware and Robert his brother; entirely to remain to them and the heirs of the said Henry Molyns. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, Michmas, 47 E. III. and Michmas, 50 E. III. no. 88.]

This agreement was probably made in consequence of the marriage of Sir John de Meriet with Elizabeth the widow of Sir Leonard Carew, or Carreu, Kt., of Stoke-Flemmyng, Devon, considering that she was the daughter of Sir Edmund de Arundel, one of the parties therein named.

From a deed enrolled in Chancery, it appears that Sir John de Meriet had, between the two dates last-above recited, made a formal grant of his reversion in fee of the manors of Great Lopene and Great Stratton to Sir John Chidiok and his heirs; thereby creating a complication, as regards those manors, which it was necessary to evade by obtaining a surrender of the deed from Sir John Chidiok to the prior grantees; for on 28 May, 49 E. III. (1375), Sir John de Chidiok, Kt., entered into a recognizance to pay to the above-named Sir Edmund de Arundel, Kt., and Henry Molyns the sum of £500 on the feast of Corpus Christi next future (24 June, 1375); and by a deed (in French), dated (the

next day, viz.) 29 May, 49 E. III. (1375), reciting the above-mentioned recognizance, the said Sir Edmund D'arundell, chivaler, and Henry Molyns declare that, in the event of the said Sir John Chidiok, chivaler, handing over to the Abbot of Glastonbury a deed of grant of the reversion of the manors of Great Lopene and Great Stratton made to him (Sir John Chidiok) and his heirs by '*Mons^r John de Meriet*,' then the said recognizance for £500 shall be void. [Close Roll, 49 E. III. m. 33, dorse.] The deed was so deposited, and the receipt of Walter the abbot dated 17 June, 1375, is still extant. [Ilchester muniments.]

But, probably, this grant was made conditionally by way of indemnity for securing the title of Sir John Chidiok as feoffee of the manors of Hestercombe and Combe-Flory, which were to be conveyed to him and others to the use of Henry Percehay and his heirs, as will be shewn in the next recited concord, for at the same time that Sir John Chidiok became bound to Sir Edmund de Arundel and others in £500, Henry Percehay, on 28 May, 1375, entered into a recognizance to pay to Sir John Chidiok and William de Henton (*Warre de Henton*?) £160 at Corpus Christi next (24 June). [Close Roll, 49 E. III. m. 33 dorse.]

Of his estate in reversion in the manors and lands of the Hestercombe branch of the Meriet family, Sir John alienated the whole between the years 1373 and 1381.

Collinson, in his *History of Somersetshire* (iii. 259, under '*Kingston*'), states on the authority of Sir William Pole's MSS. p. 545, that Sir John de Meriet, in 48 E. III. (1374), excepts Hestercombe and Combe-Flory from a deed of feoffment of his estate.

The purpose with which the above alienation of his estates to Sir Edmund de Arundel and others was made is, as regards the manors of Hestercombe and Combe-Flory, manifested by the following proceedings:—by final concord on 1 June, 1375, and again in the quinzaine of Easter, 1381, after the death of

Henry Percehay, between Sir John Chydyok, Kt., John de Beaumont, Kt., Henry Percehay, Richard Sydenham, John Monk, clerk, John Fillegh, and William, son of John Warre, querents; and Sir Edmund de Arundell, Kt., Sir William Boneville, Kt., Robert James, Henry Molyns, and John Beyvyn, deforciantes (five of the feoffees named in the preceding agreement), the latter party, for the sum of 400 marks silver (£266. 13s. 4d.) paid to them by the first party, granted for themselves and the heirs of the said Henry Molyns, to Sir John Chydyok, Kt., and the others, the reversion of the manors of Hestercombe and Combe-Flory after the expiration of the several life estates therein, firstly, of Margery, at that time wife of Thomas de Wylngton, and, secondly, of Sir Thomas Tryvet, Kt., in case he should survive the said Margery, to hold to them and the heirs of the said Henry Percehay of the chief lords of the fee &c. for ever. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 1-11 R. II. viz., Trinity 49 E. III. and Easter 4 R. II. no. 27.]

Thus the transfer, by sale and purchase, of Hestercombe and other manors and lands from the Meriet family into the possession of Sir Henry Percehay, Kt., is traced out.

From the foregoing evidences it is clear that Sir John de Meriet, Kt., junior, was heir in ultimate remainder to the manors of Hestercombe and Bradford by Welyngton and other manors and lands on the extinction of the line of Sir Simon de Meriet, Kt.

By a deed, dated 8 February, 51 E. III. (1376-7), Sir John de Meryet, Kt., gave, granted and confirmed to John de Harewell, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Thomas Mount and John Waryn, clerics, their heirs and assigns, the advowson of the church of Meryet, together with one acre of land, parcel of the manor of Meriet—witnessed by Sir William de Botreaux, Sir Richard de Acton, Sir John de-la-More, and Sir Hugh Durburgh, Knights, Henry Percehay, John Bays, Robert James, and others. [Close Rolls, 51 E. III. m. 19 dorse.] In subsequent times the rectory and advowson of

the church of Meriet passed to the Abbot and Convent of Muchelney Abbey [Hugo], and they presented John Stacey to the vicarage of Meryet, 9 January, 1520-1. [Harl. MSS. 6967, f. 29.] The patronage is now vested in the Dean and Chapter of Bristol Cathedral.

In January, 1378-9, by agreement between Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, querent; and George de Meriet, John Canon of Lopene, and John Dekne (cleric), deforciants, the said Sir John de Meriet, Kt., settled a messuage with 20 acres of land and one acre of meadow in Great Stratton to hold to the said George de Meriet (his brother of the half blood) and the heirs of his body; and, in default of such issue, to Thomas de Meriet, brother of the said George, and the heirs of his body, at a nominal rent of a rose per annum; and, in default of such issue, then to revert to the said Sir John de Meriet and his heirs, peaceably as against all other heirs of the said George and Thomas de Meriet. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 1-11 R. II. viz. Hilary 2 R. II. no. 12.]

Sir John de Meriet, Kt., was elected one of the knights of the shire for Somerset in the Parliament summoned to meet at Westminster on 16 January, 3 R. II., 1379-80. [Return: Members of Parliament, 1878.]

In Michaelmas term, viz., in the octaves of St. Martin, 8 R. II. (11-18 November, 1384), by final concord between Sir William Bonevill, chivaler, querent; and Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, and Elizabeth his wife, deforciants, Sir John and Elizabeth, for £200 sterling, granted all the life estate which Elizabeth had in a third part of the manors of Stoke-Fleming, Galmyngton (Galmeton), Otery-Mohun, Monketon, and the borough of Southton-Dertemouth, and of a third part of £9. 15s. of rent in Marnelegh, Devon, to Sir William Bonevill and his heirs, to have and to hold the same during the whole term of the said Elizabeth's life. [Fin. Con. Devon, Michmas, 8 R. II. no. 62.] This was the completion of an actual sale to Sir William Bonville and his heirs of Eliza-

beth Meriet's dower-estate in the lands of Sir Leonard Carreu, her former husband.

In Michaelmas term, 1385, the year following, by final agreement between Sir William Boneville, chivaler, and Margaret his wife, querents; and Sir John Meriet, chivaler, and Elizabeth his wife, deforciant, for the sum of 100 marks silver (£66. 13s. 4d.) Sir John and Elizabeth, for themselves and the heirs of Elizabeth, recognized a messuage, 60 acres of land and 20 acres of meadow in Mertok, Loode and Hulle, Somerset, to be the right of Sir William, and they remitted the same to Sir William and Margaret his wife and the heirs of Sir William for ever. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 1-11 R. II. viz. Michmas, 9 R. II. no. 67.] The first (if not both) of these agreements was probably connected with a contract of marriage between Thomas Carreu, the only child and heir of Sir Leonard Carreu and the aforesaid Elizabeth his wife (afterwards wife of Sir John de Meriet), with Elizabeth, the second daughter of Sir William and Margaret Bonville, at which time Thomas Carreu was about 15 years old.

Soon after the last-mentioned date, Elizabeth, the wife of Sir John de Meriet, must have died without leaving issue by him surviving, for the inquisition on his death in 1391, contains both circumstantial evidence that he had married Matilda, late wife and widow of Sir Ralph Seymour, Kt., in or before March, 1386, and a direct statement that he settled on the same Matilda an estate for life in the manors of Compton-Donden and Brode-Mershton, and in two-thirds of the manor of Meriet, which he could not have done had there been surviving issue by his wife Elizabeth, considering that these manors had been already conveyed to feoffees to specific uses in 1373, as shewn above.

In contemplation of this marriage he enfeoffed William Seymour, John Beyvyn, and Simon Olyver, in two-thirds of the manor of Meriet, to hold to the use of himself and Matilda, the widow of Sir Ralph Seymour, Kt., whom he (Sir John)

intended to marry and afterwards did marry, and his heirs, and after his marriage with the said Matilda, he granted to John Knight of Chuton, Robert Row, chaplain, and Thomas Bowode, the manors of Compton-Dondene and Brode-Mershton, Somerset, to hold to the use of himself and Matilda his wife, for their lives, with remainder to Urry Seymour and Elizabeth his wife, and the heirs of their bodies; failing which, with ultimate remainder to William Seymour and his heirs for ever.

These limitations accorded with the law of succession:—for Sir John being the only child of his mother, in the event of his dying without issue, his ancient inheritance in the manor of Meriet would, in the absence of alienation, pass to the two daughters of his father's sister, viz., Margaret Bonville and Elizabeth Stafford, to the exclusion of his brother of the half-blood, George Meriet; and the manors of Compton-Donden and Brode-Mershton, which came through his mother from the Beauchamps of Hacche, would descend to his first cousin, William Seymour, as eldest son of his maternal aunt, Cecilia de Beauchamp.

Pursuant to a writ of '*diem clausit*,' on the death of Sir John Meriet, chivaler, directed to Thomas Dacombe, the escheator in Somerset, 27 August, 15 R. II. (1391), an inquisition, of which the following is the substance, was taken at Quene-Cammel on Tuesday next before the feast of the Nativity of the blessed Virgin, 15 R. II. (5 September, 1391), when it was found that, at the time of his death, Sir John held no lands or tenements in his demesne as of fee of the King in chief in the said county, but that some time before his death, being seised of two-thirds of the manor of Meriet, he, without obtaining the King's license, conveyed the same in fee to William Seymour, since deceased, John Beyvyn and Simon Olyver, who were then surviving, and their heirs, upon condition that they should re-convey the same in fee to him, Sir John, and to Matilda widow of Sir Ralph Seymour, Kt., which Matilda he intended to marry, and afterwards did marry, and who was then

surviving, to hold to the said Sir John Meriet and Matilda and the heirs of Sir John; the said two-thirds being held of the King in chief by military service and worth 10 marks (£6. 13s. 4d.) per annum. He was also seised in fee of the manors of Compton-Dondene and Brode-Mershton, and—sometime before his death—granted the same to John Knyght of Chuton, Robert Row, chaplain, and Thomas Bowode, and their heirs, upon condition that they should give and grant the same to himself and Matilda his wife, to hold for their lives, and, after their decease, to remain to Urry Seymour and Elizabeth his wife and the joint heirs of their bodies, and, failing such issue, with ultimate remainder to William Seymour and his heirs for ever; the said manor of Compton-Dondene being held by military service of the Abbot of Glastonbury and worth £16 per annum; and the manor of Brode-Mershton being held of the heir of the Earl of Hereford by military service, and worth £12 per annum. The jury further said that the aforesaid John Meriet died in the festival of St. Anna the mother of Mary last past (26 July, 1391), and that Elizabeth, wife of Urry Seymour, was his daughter and nearest heir, and in the festival of St. Lucia the virgin last past (13 December, 1390), was of the age of four years. [Inq. p.m. 15 R. II. pt. 1, no. 48]. Sir John was therefore in his 46th year at the time of his death.

(24). **Elizabeth**, second wife of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., junior. Proofs have already been given that she was his wife in 1373, and that she died, without issue by him, between Michaelmas, 1385, and March, 1386; and from the facts already adverted to, viz., (1), the conveyance by Sir John de Meriet, in Michaelmas, 1373, of all his estates in possession and reversion to Sir Edmund de Arundel and others in fee; (2), his wife Elizabeth's holding an estate for life in a third part of certain manors and lands which formed part of the inheritance of Sir Leonard Carreu, deceased; (3), her selling the same life estate, with the consent of Sir John de Meriet, her husband, to Sir William Bonville, and (4), the effecting a

marriage between a daughter of Sir William Bonville and Thomas the only son and heir of Sir Leonard Carreu, there is strong presumptive evidence that, at the time of her marriage with Sir John de Meriet, Elizabeth was the widow of Sir Leonard Careu, Kt., and mother of his only son and heir.

Sir Leonard Carreu, Kt., of Stoke-Fleming, son and heir of Sir John Carreu, Kt., by Margaret de Mohun his first wife, was born and baptized in the church of St. Ermond of Stoke-Flemmyng, by William Chaylowe, parson of the church of Stoke-Flemmyng, 23 April, 1342. He made proof of his age, 15 May, 1364 [Prob. *Ætat.* 38 E. III. (1 *nrs*) no. 67], and did fealty for the manors and lands of his inheritance, 13 June following. [Originalia Rolls, 38 E. III. rot. 8.] On 1 February, 1368-9, he conveyed all his lands in Otery-Mohoun, Monketon, Galmyngton (Galmeton), and Stoke-Flemmyng, Devon, to feoffees to hold to uses, and he died 27 October, 1369, in the 28th year of his age, leaving an only son and heir, Thomas Carreu, who, in February, 1369-70, the date of the inquisition on his father's death, was aged half a year and more. As, by a further inquisition taken at Exeter, 14 July, 1371, pursuant to a writ of '*melius sciri*,' the age of the heir was then stated to be two years and more, Thomas Carreu's birth may be assigned to the month of June, 1369. [Inq. p.m., 44 E. III., (1 *nrs*) no. 12.]

Tierney, in his *History of Arundel*, 192*, states on the authority of Vincent, MS. Ashmole 8467, that Sir Leonard Carreu married Alice, daughter of Sir Edmund (Fitz-Alan) de Arundel, Kt., by his wife, Sibil, daughter of William de Montacute (1st) Earl of Salisbury. If what has been premised above be correct, then Vincent has erred in calling her Alice, and not Elizabeth. Assuming that she married Sir John de Meriet about the time when he conveyed his lands to Sir Edmund de Arundel and others in 1373, she retained and enjoyed her dower estate in the lands of Sir Leonard Carreu for eight years after, until she conveyed it for £200 to Sir

William Bonville by fine in Michaelmas Term 1384. At that time Thomas Carreu, her only son and heir by her first husband, was in his 16th year, and as he became the husband of Elizabeth, the second daughter of Sir William Bonville, it is probable that this surrender of Lady Meriet's dower estate in the Carreu lands was a condition in the agreement of marriage of her son. Her death without leaving surviving issue by Sir John de Meriet is indicated by the events already narrated, and limited to the short interval of time between October, 1385, and the following March.

Of Sir Thomas Carreu, the only son and heir, it may suffice to say that some time after his marriage with Elizabeth Bonville, and after the births of their two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret, he—by deed dated at Otery-Mohun, 21 September, 1394,—granted in fee to his father-in-law, Sir William Bonevyll, Kt., John Prestecote, John Streeche, Ralph Sachevyle, John Churchehull, and John Oggheburgh, cleric, his manors of Otery-Mohun, Monketon, Galmyngton, Stoke-Flemmyng, and Mammeheade, Devon, with the advowsons of the churches of the same manors; the manor of Andeport (Ampert), co. Southampton; and the manor of Mullysford (Moulsford), and lands at Charleton, Berks, subject to certain conditions, among others, that the said feoffees were to hold the said manors &c. for the term of 21 years to pay his debts; and if he should die in Ireland, whither he was about to proceed, to enfeoffe Elizabeth his wife for the term of her life, in the manors of Mammehead, Andeport, and Mullysford, with remainder to his right heirs; also that if Elizabeth his wife, who was then pregnant, should have a son who should live to the end of the said 21 years, the said feoffees should then marry Elizabeth and Margaret, his daughters, with the residue of his lands; but if his wife bore a daughter and not a son, that then his feoffees should dispose of the residue according to his last will, for the health of his soul and those of his ancestors. [Close Roll, 18 R. II. m. 22 dorse.] He died 25 January, 1430-1, and his

will—in which he styles himself Thomas Carew, Kt., Lord Carew—dated at Luppit, Devon, in 1429, was proved and registered at Lambeth. [*Chicheley*, pt. I. 429a.] Elizabeth, his widow, survived, and her will, dated 8 February, 1450-1, was proved at Exeter.

(25). SIR RALPH SEYMOUR, Kt., first husband of Matilda. He was dead before March, 1386, as Elizabeth, the daughter of Matilda by Sir John de Meriet, was born 13 December, 1386. [Inq. p.m. of Sir John de Meriet, 15 R. II., pt. 1, no. 48.] [See also note (23).]

(26). SIR HUGH CHEYNE, Kt., third husband of Matilda. They were married before Easter, 1397, as at that time she was called his wife. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, Easter, 20 R. II., nos. 82 and 83 (see note (28)); Inq. p.m. of Sir William Bonevyle, Kt., 9 H. IV., no. 42, and Close Rolls, 2 H. VI., m. 12.] He was dead before May, 1406, as Matilda his widow, on 26 May, 1406, with Roger Seymour, paid a fine of one mark for a writ '*de forma donationis*.' [Fines Roll, 7 H. IV. m. 25.] This license of gift probably referred to the manors of Compton Donden and Brode-Mershton, which her second husband, Sir John de Meriet, inherited through his mother from the Beauchamps, and settled on Matilda (after the birth of their daughter Elizabeth) for life, and, failing issue of the said Elizabeth, with ultimate remainder to William Seymour and his heirs, as is already shewn in the Inquisition on Sir John de Meriet [note (23)]. Upon the death of Sir John de Meriet's only child without issue, this Roger Seymour, as son and heir of William, became sole heir-general of John, last Lord Beauchamp of Hacche.

(27). **Urry Seymour**, the betrothed in marriage of Elizabeth the infant daughter and heiress of Sir John de Meriet. Sir Richard Colt Hoare, in his *History of Modern Wilts*, under '*Hundred of Mere*,' and parish of '*Maiden-Bradley*,' names a *Urias* Seymour as 5th son of Sir Roger Seymour by his wife Cecilia de Beauchamp of Hacche, thus placing him as a

younger brother of William Seymour the husband of Margaret Brockbury. Now, this William Seymour, being first cousin of Sir John de Meriet, was one of the feoffees in two-thirds of the manor of Meriet appointed by Sir John in his settlement before marriage with Matilda (the widow of Sir Ralph Seymour, Kt.) about the year 1386; and, as he died 25 August, 1391, leaving Roger Seymour, his son and heir, of the full age of 21 years, it is not probable that Urias, a brother of this William, was identical with the affianced husband of a child who was under five years of age at that time. We may rather assume this Urry Seymour to have been a younger son of Sir William Seymour by his wife Margaret de Brockbury, in which case he would be second cousin to his infant wife.

(28). **Elizabeth**, the infant bride, or betrothed of Urry Seymour, and sole child and heir of Sir John Meriet, Kt. She was born 13 December, 1386, being four years old on 13 December, 1390, and became the affianced wife of Urry Seymour before July, 1391. She did not long survive her father, and did not attain nine years of age, for she must have died before November, 1395 [as is shewn in note (29)]; and in a Deed of Award (in French), preserved among the muniments of the Earl of Ilchester, made 20 December, 19 R. II. (1395), by Thomas Broke and John Wadham, arbiters in a dispute between Sir William de Bonville of the one part and Sir Humphry de Stafford of the other, concerning the right to the manors of Meriet, Great Lopen and Great Stratton, the ancient inheritance of '*Monsr John de Meriet le filz*,' it is specifically stated that Margaret, wife of the said Sir William, and Elizabeth, wife of the said Sir Humphry, are *cousins and next heirs* of the said '*Monsr John de Meriet le filz*.'

In furtherance of this Award, an Indenture of Agreement (also in French) was executed in the year following, viz., on 13 November, 20 R. II. (1396), between Humphry Stafford of the one part and William Bonevyle of the other, whereby, after reciting that Maud, who was the wife of John de Meriet

'*le puisné*,' was then holding two-thirds of the manor of Meryet for her life, and Maud, who was the wife of John de Meryet '*l'eigné*,' was then holding the manor of Great Lopene and Great Stratton for her life and one-third of the said manor of Meryet in dower, the reversions whereof descend to Elizabeth wife of the said Humphry and Margaret wife of the said William, as cousins and heirs of the said John Meryet '*le puisne*,' they agree on a partition of the said estates. [Ilchester Muniments.]

Accordingly, on 1 February, 1396-7, Sir William Boneville, Kt., and Margaret his wife, and Sir Humphry de Stafford, Kt., and Elizabeth his wife pay a fine of 20s. for a writ '*de convencione et dedimus potestatem*,' with respect to the manors of Meriet, Great Lopene and Great Stratton. [Fines Roll, 20 R. II. m. 11.]

This is followed by the levying of two fines in Easter and Trinity Terms, 1397; between Sir William Bonevyll, Kt., and Margaret his wife, Sir Humphry de Stafford, Kt., and Elizabeth his wife, querents, and John Bevyn, deforciant, whereby the said John Bevyn [the sole surviving feoffee created by the fine of 50 E. III. no. 88, see notes (20) and (23)] grants severally to Sir William and his wife, and to Sir Humphry and his wife, moieties of the reversions of the manors of Meriet, Great Lopene, and Great Stratton: that is to say, of the manors of Great Lopene and Great Stratton and of one-third of the manor of Meriet, all which Matilda, widow of Sir Thomas Bocland, Kt., was then holding for the term of her life, and of two-thirds of the manor of Meriet, which Sir Hugh Cheyne, Kt., and Matilda his wife, were then holding for the term of the said Matilda's life, to hold the reversion of one moiety to Sir William and Margaret for their lives, then to their sons, Thomas, Hugh, and William Bonevyll and the heirs male of their bodies successively; and the reversion of the other moiety to Sir Humphrey and Elizabeth for their lives and the heirs of their bodies, with ultimate remainders to the right heirs of Margaret and Elizabeth respectively. [Fin. Conc. Somerset,

12-20 R. II., viz., Easter and Trinity, 20 R. II. no. 82, and Easter, 20 R. II., no. 83.]

To confirm their title, by an Indenture dated 21 April, 21 R. II., 1398 (which was after the death of Matilda, widow of Sir Thomas de Bokeland, Kt.), George de Meriet, therein described as '*son and heir of John de Meriet, the elder Kt.*' (another proof of the extinction of the issue of Sir John de Meriet, senior, by Eleanor de Beauchamp his first wife), released to the said Sir Humphrey de Stafford, Kt., and Elizabeth his wife and Sir William Bonevyft, Kt., and Margaret his wife, all his right to the manors of Meryet, Great Lopen and Great Stratton. [Ilchester Muniments.]⁸ By subsequent arrangement between the parties, Sir William Bonville and Margaret his wife, assigned their reversion in a moiety of the manors of Great Lopene and Great Stratton to Sir Humphrey Stafford and Elizabeth his wife, in purparty, in lieu of their reversion in a moiety of the manor of Meriet; in exchange for which assignment, and for the consideration of ten marks to be paid to them yearly during their joint lives, Sir Humphry and Elizabeth granted and assigned their reversion in a moiety of the manor of Meriet to Sir William Bonville and Margaret his wife, subject to the entail created by the above recited fine of 20 R. II. [Inq. p.m. of Sir W. Bonvyle, Chivaler, 9 H. IV. no. 42, and Close Roll 2 H. VI. m. 12]. Thus the reversion of the entirety of the manor of Meriet devolved to Sir William Bonville and his heirs in strict entail; and by the failure of the issue of his sons, Thomas, Hugh, and William, the manor ultimately vested in his grandson, William, Lord Bonville of Chuton, K.G., who suffered decapitation, 18 February, 1460-1. Lord Bonville brought the manor of Meriet, together with the manors of Chuton and Thurlebere, into settlement upon the

(8). I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. John Batten, of Aldon, near Yeovil, for placing in my hands the valuable extracts from Lord Ilchester's muniments contained in these notes. They were taken from the originals by Mr. Thomas Bond, of Tyneham, one of the editors of the last edition of Hutchins's *History of Dorset*.

marriage of his grandson, William Bonville, Lord Haryngton, with Lady Katherine Nevill. [Parliament Roll, 14 E. IV. m. 37].

(29). **George de Meriet**, Esq., son and heir of Matilda, second wife of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., senior. He was 30 years of age and more at the time of his mother's death in March, 1397-8 [see note (20).] In January, 1378-9, Sir John de Meriet, his elder brother of the half blood, settled a messuage and lands in Great Stratton upon him and his issue, at a nominal rent, with remainder to Thomas Meriet, this George's younger brother, and his issue, with reversion over to Sir John and his heirs. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, Hilary, 2 R. II. no. 12.] [See (23) of these notes.]

On 1 June, 1388, for a fine of 40s., George Meriet received a confirmation of Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Ireland granting to him the guardianship of all the lands, &c., of Edmund Husee, late Baron of Galtrim, deceased, together with the reversion of all the lands which Matilda, widow of the Baron of Galtrim, was holding in dower for her life of the inheritance of Peter, son and heir of the said Baron, to hold till the coming of age of the said Peter, the heir, together with his marriage. [Fines Roll, 11 R. II., m. 2, in Dodsw. MSS. 52, fol. 48.]

In 19 R. II., George Meriet had recourse to trial and action in Common Bank against Matilda the widow of Sir John de Meriet, Kt. (junior), to obtain possession of the manors of Compton-Dondene and Brode-Merston, on the plea that the said John de Meriet had made a settlement (circa May, 1368) [see note (22)] of those manors by enfeofing Lawrence St. Martin, chivaler, and Robert Lough therof, to hold to the use of himself (described as John, son of John de Meriet, Kt.) and Joan his wife and the heirs of their bodies, with remainder to himself and the heirs of his body, with further remainder to John de Meriet, Kt. (senior), and the heirs of his body, and with ultimate remainder to his own right heirs, alledging that by virtue of such settlement these manors ought to revert to

him, George, as son and heir of the same John de Meriet, Kt. (senior), because as well the said John and Joan had died without heirs jointly of their bodies as the said John (the son) without issue of his body. Accordingly, the feoffment having been produced in court, a verdict was given in George Meriet's favour, on the morrow of All Souls, 19 R. II. (3 Nov. 1395), [De Banco Roll, Hilary, 19 R. II. memb. 175 in dorso.]

Matilda, the widow, shortly after married Hugh Cheyne, and in 21 R. II. (1397-8), George Meriet granted to the said Hugh and Matilda the manor of Compton-Dondene for her life at the nominal rent of a rose per annum, retaining the manor of Brode-Merston in his own possession. [Ilchester Muniments.] But his peaceful enjoyment thereof was soon disturbed, for early in the reign of Henry IV. he presented his petition to the King in Council complaining that, although he had established his right by trial at law and gained possession of the manor of Brode-Merston, nevertheless Sir Matthew Gurnay, chivaler, and four others of his suite had ousted him therefrom by force, seized his goods and injured the charters and muniments of his inheritance thereto, and praying that restitution may be made to him of the said manor, goods and writings, &c. [Petitions to the King in Council, 5918.] Thus in opposition to the first entail created in 1368, by Sir John de Meriet, junior, in favour of himself and his issue by Joan his first wife, with further remainder, on failure of his own issue, to his father and the heirs of his body, Sir Matthew Gurnay enforced his claim to the manor of Brode-Merston under the second entail of 1373, whereby the ultimate remainder was to vest in him. Considering that these manors descended to Sir John de Meriet, junior, through his mother from the Beauchamps of Somerset, his creating a remainder thereto in favor of his father's issue by another wife was an act of injustice towards the heirs general of the last Sir John Beauchamp of Hacche, which he vainly endeavoured to rectify by the third settlement, circa 1391.

Regarding Sir Matthew Gourney, Kt., this was probably the last hostile engagement in which the old and famous warrior took part, for he died in 1406, aged 96 years, s.p., and was interred in the Collegiate Chapel of St. Nicholas, attached to the manor house of Stoke Hamedon. At the time of his death he was seised in fee-tail of the manor of Stoke-under-Hamedon, with the advowson of the free chapel (college or chantry dedicated to St. Nicholas) therein, and of the manor and advowson of the church of Cory-Malet, all which were held of the King in chief by military service, with reversion over to William Otterhampton, because Sir Matthew died without issue. [Dodsw. MSS. xi. 56 in Bodl. Lib.]

It is a remarkable fact that the inquisition that was taken on the death of Sir Matthew Gourney, Kt., is not to be found among the Public Records, though it was in existence in Dodsworth's time, and he made extracts from it. On the Fines Roll, 7 H. IV. m. 27, is the record of the order for a writ on his death to issue, dated 3 September, 7 H. IV. (1406); thus proving the date of his death on his tomb in the chapel of Stoke-Hamedon Manor House, as copied by Leland (Itin. ii. 54 and iii. 91) viz., 26 September, to have been wrong. The day of his death is entered in the *Martirologium* of the Dominican Friary at Bristol, of which fraternity he was called a *Founder*, as the 28th of August. [Itiner. Will. de Worcestre, edit. Nasmith, p. 234.] This is again repeated by W. de Worcestre in these words: "*Mattheus de Gorney, miles comitatûs Somersetiæ obiit 28 Augusti*" [ibidem, p. 366]. His death was also entered in the *Martirologium* of the Franciscan Friary of Bridgwater, thus—"Matheus Gornay, chevalier, obiit 21 die Augusti" [ibid. p. 137]. This latter date is probably a misprint for '28.' In the late Daniel Gurney's elaborate work, *Records of the House of Gournay*, is an engraving of Sir Matthew's seal. He bore on his shield, *Paly* of six *gules* and *or*, and on his crest, a Moor's head crowned.

Collinson states that in his time the noble mansion of the
New Series, Vol. VIII., 1882, Part II.

Beauchamps at Stoke Hamedon was in ruins, being converted into offices for a farm house, and the chapel into a cyder vault. [*Hist. of Somers.* iii. 315.] Sir Matthew Gourney's connection with, and his life estate in, the manor of Stoke-Hamedon, respecting which there is an oft-repeated error, originated in his marriage with Alice, the widow of the last John de Beauchamp, Lord Beauchamp of Hacche. Her marriage with Sir Matthew took place before the year 1374, as in that year her brother, Sir William de Beauchamp of Warwick, and others, to whom she had previously released all her interest in the manor of Stoke Hamedon and elsewhere, assigned the same to her and her husband, Sir Matthew, for their lives, with remainder to their joint issue. [See (23) of these notes.] It has been also shown in the same note that Sir John Meriet (her former husband's nephew) who succeeded to the inheritance by right of heirship, released to the same feoffees all his right and claim in the Manor of Stoke-under-Hamedon. The extract given above from the Inq. p.m. of Sir Matthew Gourney, as taken by Dodsworth, clearly shows that these feoffees must have settled a life estate upon him in the Manor of Stoke-Hamedon and the Advowson of the free chapel, or chantry, therein.

By deed, dated 20 March, 21 R. II. (1397-8), George de Meriet granted to Thomas, Duke of Surrey, John, Earl of Salisbury, Thomas de Meryet, John Dekne and William Urry, and their heirs, the manor of Brode Mershton and the rent of a rose, and the reversion of the manor of Compton Dondene. [Ilchester Muniments.]

It has been already observed in note (28) that by indenture, dated 21 April, 21 R. II. (1398), George de Meriet, therein described as '*son and heir of John de Meriet the elder, Kt.*,' released to Sir Humphry Stafford, Kt., and Elizabeth his wife and Sir William Boneyth, Kt., and Margaret his wife and their heirs, all his right, &c., to the manors of Meriet, Great Lopene, and Great Stratton, according to a fine thereof levied to them (in Easter and Trinity Terms, 20

R. II. 1397). [Ilchester Muniments. See also note (20).]

George Meriet's last will, written in Latin, in which he styles himself '*George Meriet Armiger*,' is dated on Thursday, 28 August, 1410, and was proved in the Prerog. Court of Canterbury, 23 September next after.

The following is an abstract of the will:—I desire that my body may be buried in the church of the Friars Preachers of Fysherton-Ancher (Fisherton Anger near Salisbury), on the south side, immediately behind the tomb of Sir Roger Beauchamp, Kt.

I give to the altar of St. Stephen in the church of St. Thomas in Salisbury, a pair of vestments to pray for my soul and the soul of Alesia '*nuper ux'is mee*.'

Item, to the church of Downton (Wilts), a pair of vestments to pray for my soul and the soul of *Matill. matris mee*. (N.B. The manor of Downton belonged to Sir Thomas de Bokelond, Kt., his mother's second husband.)

Item, to Thomas Meryet my brother, for prayers to be said for my soul and the souls of my father, my mother, William Teynture, and Alesia my wife. (N.B. This looks likely that Alice his wife was daughter of William Teynture).

Item, to the fabric of the chapel of St. Katherine of Meryet, '*ubi Matill. nup ux' mea jacet*,' 40s. (N.B. This must have been a chantry chapel in the church of Meriet, as Mr. W. Long tells us—quoting from Ecton's "Thesaurus"—that the parish church of Meriet was dedicated to All Saints.) [Somerset. Archæ. Society's *Proceedings*, xvii. 116.]

Item, to the fabric of the parish church of St. Peter of Suthpetherton '*ad parand. et ornand. vicissim locū ubi Matill. mat' mea est humat'*, 40s.

Item, to each of my executors 10 marks, viz., Thomas Meryet (his brother), William Freye, John Kyrkely and William Alysaundre.

He also makes the following pious bequests, viz.: to the church of St. Edmund in Salisbury, 20s.; to the church of

St. Mary in Salisbury, 20s. ; to the Friars Preachers of Fyssherton, 20s. [Register *Marche* ff. 166-7.]

(30). **Thomas Meriet**, younger brother of George and son of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., senior, by Matilda his second wife, was next in remainder—after his brother George's death without issue—to a messuage and 20 acres of land and 1 acre of meadow in Great Stratton under the settlement made by fine in January, 1378-9, by Sir John de Meriet, Kt., junior, on his brothers of the half blood. [See (23) of these notes.] He was appointed one of the executors of his brother George's will in 1410. [See note (29).]

By deed, dated at Lopene on Monday next after the feast of St. Scholastica, virgin, 21 R. II. (11 February, 1397-8), his mother, as Matilda, relict of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., remitted and quit-claimed to Thomas de Meryet her son, the whole of the manor of North Stanlynch and Langeford, Wilts, with all lands, &c., to hold for ever. [Bodleian Charters, Wilts, no. 26.]

By Indenture, dated at Stallynch, 3 June, 1 H. IV. (1400), Thomas Meriet and Elianora his wife, demised to John Chapman, chaplain, a tenement in Stallynch for 40 years, at an annual rent of 8s. 9d. [Ibm no. 27.]

On 28 December, 8 H. IV. (1406), he was appointed one of the eight Collectors for Wilts, excepting the city of New Sarum, of the Subsidies of a Tenth and a Fifteenth, granted in the last preceding Parliament. [Fines Roll, 8 H. IV. ms. 17 and 18.]

By deed, dated at Stanlynch, 17 June, 6 H. V. (1418), Thomas Meryet and Aleanora his wife granted to John Hugyn, all lands and tenements, &c., which were John Aynel's in Stanlynche, as also all the lands, &c., which they have in North Stanlynche. [Ibm, no. 28.] May not he be identical with Thomas *Mariet* who on 10 April, 8 H. V. (1420)—at Rouen—received, with others, a grant of houses in Caen? [Norman Rolls, 8 H. V. m. 17.]

(31). **Simon de Meriet**. A Simon de Meryet, with Lucy

his wife and Robert fitz Thomas, in 1262, on payment of a fine of one mark, obtained a writ of attaint, the proceedings thereon to be taken in the county of Buckingham before Nicholas de Turri (a puisne Justice of the King's Bench. [Fines Roll, 47 H. III. m. 13.]

In 1273, Christina, widow of John de Hecton, and Christina de Wetheford, took proceedings of Novel-disseisin against Simon de Meriet touching their tenements in Brompton-Ralph, Somerset, of which he had wrongfully disseised them. [Patent Rolls, 1 E. I. m. 11d and 15d.]

Savage, in his *History of the Hundred of Carhampton*, article '*Withycombe*,' p. 282, states that Ralph Fitz-Urse, tempore E. II., held two-thirds of a knight's fee in Brompton-Ralph, under Thomas de Tymmeworth and Lucy his wife, who held the same of Sir John de Mohun, as of his castle of Dunster. N.B. Lucy, wife of Thomas de Tymmeworth, was widow of Simon de Meriet [see note (32).] Also in the same year, 1273, Thomas Talebot took like proceedings against Simon de Meriet, touching a tenement in Heathfield, Somerset. [Patent Rolls, 1 E. I. m. 6 dorse.]

In 4 E. I. (1276), by an Inquisition relating to encroachments on Crown lands in the Hundred of Carhampton, Somerset, it was found that Simon de Meriet, with others, had taken and retained all cattle found straying. [Rot. Hund. II. 140.]

By charter, without date, Sir Simon de Meriet, Kt., and Lucy, his wife, gave and granted, for the consideration of 200 marks silver, to Salomon de Roucestre, cleric, their tenement of Stanpete and Stapindon in the Isle of Schapeye (Sheppey), Kent, to hold to the said Salomon and his heirs at the nominal rent of a rose per annum, with warranty. Witnesses: Sir Stephen Penecestre, Sir William de Hevere, Sir Ralph Savage, and Sir Ralph de Saunwyz (Sandwich), Kts., Bartholomew de Wayton, Richard de Haulo, Henry de Ledes, John de Godyeneton, John de Ores, — de Reyham, Adam de la Legh, William de Hoke, and others. At the foot is the im-

pression of his Seal in brown wax, bearing on a heater-shaped shield, Barry of Six —, over all a bend —. Surrounding the whole is the legend: 'S. SIMONIS DE MERIET.' [Cotton Charters XXVII. no. 103.]

(32). **Lucy**, wife and widow of Simon de Meriet, was daughter of William Malet. By charter, dated at Bradeford (Somerset), on Thursday next before the feast of Symon and Jude, apostles, 3^o Edward filii regis Edwardi (E. II. 23 October, 1309), Lucia de Meryet, in her pure widowhood, released and quit-claimed all right, &c., in lands, tenements, and rents in Stanpete and Stapyndone, in the Isle of Schapeheye, Kent, which devolved to her by the death of William Malet, her father, to Richard de Roucestre and his heirs, and which had been given and granted by Simon de Meryet, her late husband, to Salomon de Roucestre, brother of the said Richard, at the nominal rent of a rose per annum, and doing the usual services. Witnesses: Matthew de Forneaus, James de Moletone, John de Clyfdone (Clyvedon), Kts., Gregory de Welyngton, Adam le Bret, Walter le f, William de Reyny, and others. At foot is the impression of her seal in dark brown wax, bearing on a heater-shaped shield, in Gothic (decorated) panel with foliage, some heraldic charge. The greater part of the shield is broken through, but the upper end of a bend is visible at the dexter chief point. Encircling the whole is the Legend: 'SIGILLUM [LU]CIE [D]E MERIET.' [Cotton Charters XXVII. no. 111.] It will be observed that most of the witnesses bear Somerset names.

Lucy de Meriet had married again before 24 E. I. 1296, Thomas de Tynworth, or Tymmeworth, lord of the manors of Bratton St. Mary (between Okehampton and Launceston), Combe and Gondescot, Devon, by whom she had a daughter, Hawisia [Sir Will. Pole's collections for Devon, 4^o p. 346-7.] He must have died about 1296, for by writ, tested at Portsmouth, 24 May, 25 E. I. 1297, summoning attendance in London on 27 July following for foreign service, Lucy de Meriet (re-

taining her first husband's name) is returned in Somerset, among religious persons and women, as having £20 a year in lands, or tenements, not held of the king in chief. Again, by general writ, tested at Wetherby (co. York) 14 January, 28 E. I. 1300, summoning attendance at Carlisle on 24 June following, for service against the Scots, Lucy de Meriet is returned in Somerset, among religious persons and women, as holding lands, or tenements, to the value of £40 a year, but not held of the king in chief. [Parliamentary Writs.]

By final accord, entered into at York in the octave of John Baptist 31 E. I. (24 June—1 July, 1303), between Lucy de Meriet and Walter 'filium ejus,' by their substitute Richard de Montsorell, querents; and Humphry de Dunsterre, deforciant, the latter, for the sum of £100 sterling, acknowledged as of his gift a messuage and a carucate of land with the appurtenances in Plesse (Plassh) and Willet (in the parish of Elworthy), to be the right of the said Walter, to hold to the said Lucy and Walter, and the heirs of Walter for ever [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 31 E. I. no. 105]; and by another agreement made at York, 25 June, 32 E. I. (1304), between Lucy de Meriet and Walter her son, querents, by their substitute Richard de Montsorell; and Richard de Ford, deforciant, by his substitute Simon Sauvage, the said Richard de Forde, for the sum of £100 sterling, acknowledged a messuage and two carucates of land with the appurtenances in Cerneheye juxta Taunton to be, without reservation, the right of the said Walter to hold to the said Lucy and Walter and the heirs of the said Walter for ever. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 32 E. I. no. 118.] Collinson, III. 259, erroneously places Cerneheye in Gloucestershire, on the apparent supposition that it was identical with the parish of North or South Cerney. The late Mr. Hugo's monograph on Taunton Priory indicates that it is in the parish of Trull, about two miles south of Taunton. [*Proceedings* of the Somerset Archæological Society IX. pt. 2. 115.]

By agreement made at Westminster on the morrow of the

Ascension 33 E. I. (28 May, 1305), between Lucy de Meryet and Walter de Meryet (her son), querents, and Richard de Pulton, deforciant, by his substitute Simon le Sauvage, the said Richard de Pulton, for the sum of £100 sterling, granted and conveyed for himself and his heirs to the said Lucy and Walter de Meryet and the heirs of Walter, two messuages, three carucates of land, and 60s. of rent in Culm Reygny (Culm Sachville), Strochull (Strawquill), and Yerdone (Yard Down), by Bradenech (Bradninch), Devon, with warranty [Fin. Conc. Devon, 33 E. I. no. 151]; and by further agreement in the octave of the purification of the blessed Mary, 34 E. I. (February, 1305-6), between Lucy and Walter de Meriet, querents, and Simon, the son of Simon le Sauvage, deforciant, the said Lucy and Walter conveyed the same messuages and land, &c., to the said Simon le Sauvage, the son, in fee, to hold to the use of Lucy and Walter, and the heirs of the said Walter de Meriet for ever. [Fin. Conc., Devon, 34 E. I. no. 153.]

In June, 1306, on the occasion of John de Meriet, of Hestercombe, levying a fine for the purpose of settling an estate for life on his wife, Elizabeth, in his manors of Hestercombe and Legh-Flory, with remainder to his heirs, this Lucy de Meriet and Walter de Meriet (her son) record their claim, which is endorsed on the fine. [See note (34).]

By agreement at Westminster in the octave of John Baptist, 35 E. I. (24 June—1 July, 1307), between Walter de Meriet, querent, and Lucy de Meriet (his mother), deforciant, the latter, for the sum of £100 sterling, acknowledged two messuages and two carucates of land with the appurtenances in Wydecumbe and Elleworth (Withecumbe, in the Hundred of Carhampton, and Elworthy, in the Hundred of Williton-Freemanors), and the advowson of the church of Wydecumbe to be the right of the said Walter, to have and to hold to him and his heirs for ever; against which entail John de Meriet (of Meriet), and John Meriet '*de Hestercome*' enter their claim,

which is endorsed on the fine. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 35 E. I. no. 200.]

By agreement in the octave of St. Martin, 5 E. II. (November, 1311), between Simon le Sauvage, junior, querent, and Walter de Meryet, deforciant, the latter granted and conveyed to the former for the term of his life the manor of Bratton (Bratton St. Mary's, *i.e.*, Bratton-Clovelly, between Okehampton and Launceston), Devon, the manor of Bradeford by Welyngton, two messuages, two carucates of land, 20 acres of meadow and 30 acres of wood in Hoccombe by Lydyard St. Lawrence, and Bickeleghe by Milverton, and the advowson of the church of Bradeford, Somerset, to hold to the following uses, viz.:—(1) to Lucy de Meriet for her life; (2) to Hawisia, the daughter of the said Lucy, and the heirs of her body, at a nominal rent of a rose per annum; and in default of such heirs, with reversion after Hawisia's decease, to the aforesaid Walter de Meriet and his heirs, as against the heirs of the said Simon le Sauvage, Lucy de Meriet, and any other heirs of her said daughter Hawisia. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 5 E. II. no. 53.] This Hawisia was Lucy de Meriet's daughter by her last husband, Thomas de Tynworth.

By agreement on the morrow of St. Martin, 7 E. II. (12th November, 1313), between John de Berkelegh (John de Berkeley, of Dursley) and Hawisia his wife, and Lucy de Meriet (her mother), by Simon le Sauvage the substitute of Lucy de Meriet, querents, and Walter de Meriet, deforciant, the said Walter de Meriet granted the above recited manors of Bratton and Bradeford, the advowson of the church of Bradeford, and lands as aforesaid: (1) to the said Lucy de Meriet for her life; (2) to the said John de Berkelegh and Hawisia his wife, and the heirs of the said Hawisia's body for ever; failing which, with reversion, after the several deaths of the said John and Hawisia, to the aforesaid Walter de Meriet and his heirs, as against all other heirs of the said John and Hawisia. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 7 E. II. no. 84.] This fine was evidently

made as a settlement on the marriage of John de Berkeley, of Dursley, with Hawisia de Tynworth, the daughter of Lucy de Meriet.

William de Berkeley, of Dursley, had died in the year 1300, leaving this John de Berkeley his son and heir an infant, whose wardship the king, for a fee of £60, granted to John Buteturte (Botetort), together with the custody of the manor of Dursley and other lands of his inheritance. [Originalia Roll, 29 E. I. rot. 7.]

About the period of his marriage with Hawisia, in 1313, he must have attained his full legal age, as on 15 August, 8 E. II. 1314, he did homage for his lands of inheritance. He was living in March 9 E. II., 1315-6, holding the lordship of Dursley, the manor of Doddington, and township of Newington, co. Gloucester, and the manor of Bratton-cum-Borsleigh, in the hundred of Lyfton, Devon. [Parliamentary Writs.] He died in 10 E. II., 1316-7. [Originalia Roll, 10 E. II. rot. 3.]

Both Lucy de Meriet and her daughter Hawisia had died before Michaelmas, 19 E. II., 1325, Hawisia not leaving any surviving issue, whereby Walter de Meriet became seised of the manors of Bratton and Bradeford, and the advowson of the church of Bradeford, and the lands recited in the two last-mentioned fines under the entail created by the fine of November, 1313. [Placita Coram Rege : Easter, 6 E. III. memb. ciii.]

In the absence of evidence, the acquisition by the De Meriet family of the messuages and lands in Plassh, Willet, Cerneheye by Taunton, Culm-sachville, Withycombe and Elworthy, cannot be explained ; but their limitation to Walter de Meriet and his heirs becomes intelligible on the theory that Lucy, his mother, was an heiress in her own right, and thus made provision for her son.

(33). *Mary*, 1st wife of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., 'of *Hestercombe*,' who is thus styled in Ashmole MSS., 1107, p. 217, pedigree of *Mohun*. She was posthumous daughter and co-heir of

William de Mohun, of Ottery-Mohun and Stoke-Fleming, Devon, who died in August, 1282, by his wife, Beatrice Fitz-Reginald. She was born at Mildenhall, near Marlborough, Wilts, 8 December, 11 E. I., 1282; was of the full age of 14 years on 8 December, 1296, and then wife of John de Meriet. [Esc. 25 E. I. nos. 43 and 122.] Her husband did fealty for her lands in 1297. [Originalia Roll, 25 E. I. rot. 13.] She died soon after giving birth to her only child, Johanna de Meriet, who was born before November, 1300, and died in infancy before her mother. [Inq. p.m. of ‘*Maria quæ fuit uxor Johannis de Meriet,*’ 29 E. I. no. 6.]

Her purparty of the lands of her inheritance, for which her husband did fealty and held for his life in survivorship by the law of England, because of the said issue of the marriage had between them [Inq. p.m. (as above) 29 E. I. no. 6], was the manor of Mildenhall, Wilts; lands and tenements in Luyton, with the Hundred of Flitton, Beds.; one fourth of the manor of Magor (co. Monmouth); the manor of Greywelle by Odiham, co. Southampton; and lands and tenements in Sturminster Marschal, Dorset. [Inq. p.m. of her husband, Sir John de Meriet, 1 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 51, and Fines Rolls, 1 E. III. m. 9.]

(34). **Sir John de Meriet, Kt., of Hestercombe**, Somerset. In the Roll of Arms of the Bannerets of England, compiled in the early part of the reign of E. II., he is called Sir John de Meriet ‘*le Neveu,*’ to distinguish him from his cousin, Sir John de Meriet, Kt., of Meriet and Castle-Carlton, and bore on his shield, Barry *or* and *sable* of six pieces, over all a bend *ermine*, for difference. [Cotton MSS. ‘*Caligula A. 18.*’]

By agreement in Easter Term, 21 E. I., 1293, between this John de Meriet, querent, and John de Hestercumbe, deforciant, the latter, for the payment of a sparrow-hawk, conveyed to the former and his heirs in fee, with warranty, eight acres of arable and five acres of meadow land with their appurtenances in Hestercumbe, and also one hundred shillings of rent with their appurtenances in the same ville, to be received an-

nually from Gregory de Welyngton and his heirs on all the tenements in the said ville, which he (the said Gregory) had heretofore held of the said John de Hestercumbe. This agreement was effected in the presence of the said Gregory de Welyngton, who was a consenting party thereto, and who thereupon did fealty to the said John de Meriet. [Feet of Fines, Somerset, 21-35 E. I., viz., 21 E. I. no. 1.] This fine is printed at full in the appendix to the late Rev. T. Hugo's paper on *Hestercumbe* in the Somerset Archæological Society's *Proceedings* for 1872, vol. xviii., 169.

John de Meriet, by writ tested at Northampton, 12 March, 29 E. I., 1301, was summoned, as from Wilts, to perform military service in person against the Scots; muster at Berwick-on-Tweed, 24 June next after. [Parliamentary Writs.]

By agreement in the octave of John Baptist, 34 E. I. (24 June—1 July, 1306), between John de Meriet and Elizabeth his wife, querents, and Bartholomew Sauvage, deforciant, the said John de Meriet conveyed the manors of Hestercumbe and Legh-Flory to the said Bartholomew Sauvage, who thereupon re-granted them in fee to the said John and Elizabeth to have and to hold to them and the heirs of John for ever. Against this settlement, Lucy de Meriet, John de Flory, Walter de Meriet (son of Lucy), and Richard de Roffe put in their claim, which is recorded on the back of the fine. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 21-35 E. I., viz., 34 E. I. no. 169.] This fine was made for the purpose of a provision for Elizabeth, second wife, who was the widow of Philip Paynel, of Combe Kaynes and Rampisham, Dorset, as is shewn below. She was mother of Sir John de Meriet's surviving children. [Compare Inq. p.m. of John de Meriet, 1 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 50, and Inq. p.m. of Walter de Meriet, 19 E. III. (1 nrs) no 55.]

By writ, tested at Stamford 30 July, 3 E. II., 1309, John de Meriet was summoned (county not named) to perform military service in person against the Scots; muster at Newcastle-on-Tyne, 29 September next following. [Parliamentary Writs.]

By commission tested at Westminster, 18 December, 3 E. II., 1309, John de Meriet was appointed one of the Justices for Somerset to receive complaints of prizes taken contrary to the Statute of Stamford. [Parliamentary Writs.]

In 1311, John de Meriet received a surrender from William de Ashtone, son of John de Ashtone, of all right in lands, services, &c., in Ashton, near Bristol, and the manor and advowson of Est-Capelonde. [Original Deed in the Surrenden Collection, as quoted by Hugo (as above), p. 147.]

By agreement on 12 November, 6 E. II., 1312, between '*John de Meryet of Hestercombe*,' querent, (by his substitute John de Middelton), and William le Veil and Dionisia his wife, deforciant, the latter for 100 shillings silver, remitted and quit-claimed for themselves and the heirs of the said William, to the said John de Meryet and his heirs for ever, a messuage, 10 acres of wood, and half a virgate of arable land with the appurtenances, in Asshton by Bristol, with warranty. [Fin. Conc. Somerset 1-6 E. II., viz., 6 E. II. no. 138.]

On 20 March, 1314, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, in compliance with letters from Berengar, Bishop of Tusculum, the Pope's Penitentiary, absolved Sir John de Meriet, Kt., from a sentence of excommunication that he had incurred by causing the body of his deceased wife to be embowelled; and Sir John was ordered to inter the heart with the body from which it had been removed. [Register '*Droknensford*' at Wells, fol. 67b.]

By writ, tested at Berwick-on-Tweed, 30 June, 7 E. II., 1314, John de Meriet was summoned to perform military service in person against the Scots; to be at Newcastle-on-Tyne 15 August following, in 8 E. II., 1314. [Parliamentary Writs.] By writ, tested at Thunderley (Essex) 25 June, 8 E. II., 1315, addressed to the Collectors of the Scutages of 28, 31, and 34 E. I. (1300, 1303 and 1306) for the king's army in Scotland, '*John de Meriet of Hestercombe and Elizabeth his wife, widow of Philip Paynel*,' were exonerated from the payment of the above scutages in respect of the lands and tenements which

the said Elizabeth was holding in dower (being a third part) of the inheritance of Philip Paynel, her former husband ; provided that the said scutages were duly levied on the heirs or tenants of the remaining two-thirds of the said lands. [Parliamentary Writs.]

Among the returns of the names of the lords of townships, &c., for the purpose of effecting the military levies ordained in the Parliament at Lincoln (in January, 9 E. II.), made pursuant to separate writs, all tested at Clipston (co. Northampton), 5 March, 9 E. II., 1315-6, this John de Meriet was certified, in Bedfordshire, as joint lord of Luton, with Robert de Kendale, Henry de Lucy, John de Melton, and Johana de Vivonia ; also, in Somerset, as joint lord of Ashton, in the Hundred of Bedmynstre, Portbury, and Hareclyve, with Robert de Aston, Thomas de Lyouns, and John de Batecombe ; also, in the county of Southampton, as sole lord of Greywelle, in the Hundred of Odyham ; also, in Wilts, as sole lord of Mildenhall (near Marlborough), in the Hundred of Selkele ; and in Bedfordshire, as having in his (sole) hands the Hundred of Flitton. [Parliamentary Writs.]

On 25 July, 1316, the Bishop of Bath and Wells granted a special license, dated at Wyvelescumbe, to Sir John de Meriet, Kt., to have a chantry within the chapel of his manor of Hestercumbe, because of the distance of the place from the mother church. [Register *Droghensford*, fol. 97.]

By commission, tested at Windsor, 22 November, 11 E. II., 1317, John de Meriet was appointed one of the Justices, assigned in Somerset, for the purpose of suppressing illegal meetings, &c. [Parliamentary Writs.]

On 9 July, 13 E. II., 1319, at York, the King granted to John de Meryet and his heirs a charter of free-warren in all his demesne lands of Hestercumbe, Legh-Flory, Est-Capelond, Coumbe-Flory, and Ashton by Bristol, Somerset. [Charter Roll, 13 E. II. no. 35.]

By commission, dated at ‘*Pountefreit on Thamis*,’ 30 Novem-

ber, 15 E. II., 1321, John de Meriet was appointed one of the commissioners empowered to assemble the forces of the counties of Somerset and Dorset. [Parliamentary Writs.]

Pursuant to separate writs, dated at Westminster, 9 May, 17 E. II., 1324, he, by the style of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., was returned by the Sheriff of Somerset as summoned to attend the Great Council on 30 May next; also, by the Sheriff of Bedfordshire, as holding lands but not resident in the county, and as summoned for the same purpose; also, by the Sheriff of Wilts, as holding lands but not resident in the county, and as summoned for the same purpose. [Parliamentary Writs.]

By writ, tested at Guildford, 6 August, 18 E. II., 1324, John de Meriet was appointed one of the Commissioners of Array in Somerset. The oath of office was to be administered to him by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, who was directed to assist him in the execution of his duties. [Parliamentary Writs.]

Two sets of writs of '*diem clausit extremum*' on the death 'John de Meriet' were issued out of Chancery. One set, calendared 1 E. III. (1 $\overline{\text{nrs}}$) no. 50, and bearing date 27 February and 6 March, 1 E. III., 1327, directs William Trussel, the escheator on this side Trent, to make inquisition touching the lands and heir of John de Meriet, deceased. The other set, calendared 1 E. III. (1 $\overline{\text{nrs}}$) no. 51, bearing date 27 March, 9 June, 11 June, and 11 July, 1 E. III., 1327, requires the same escheator to take into the King's hand the lands and tenements which John de Meriet, deceased, held of the inheritance of Mariota, or Mary, his wife, long since deceased ('*dudum defunctæ.*') The first writ of the latter set is endorsed, '*Dors., Wilt., Gloucr., Bed., Suht.*' By the inquisitions taken in these several counties, pursuant to the second set of writs, it was found that John de Meriet held at his death, by the courtesy of England, the manor of Mildenhall, Wilts, with the appurtenances, of the inheritance of Mary his wife, deceased, who was one of the daughters and co-heirs of William son of Reginald de Mohun; land and tenements in Luyton with the

Hundred of Flitton, Beds.; a fourth part of the manor of Magor in the marches of Wales (in Monmouthshire); the manor of Greywelle in the Hundred of Odyham, in the county of Southampton; and certain lands and tenements in Sturminster Marschal, Dorset; and that the heirs of the said Mary were (1) John de Mohun, of Dunster, of full age; (2) Henry Fitz-Roger, (of Chuton), aged eight years; (3) John de Beauchamp, of Somerset, senior, of full age; (4) John de Bohun, of Midhurst, Sussex, of full age; and (5) Hugh de Mortimer, of Cheilmersh (Salop), of full age. [Esc. 1 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 51.]

• In the following year (1328), Simon de Bereford, the escheator on this side Trent, was required to take into the king's hand the Hundred of Flitton, Beds., and make partition thereof, in four equal parts, between the heirs of Mary, formerly wife of John de Meriet, deceased. [Originalia Roll, 2 E. III. rot. 5.] The four heirs here referred to were John de Mohun of Dunster, John de Beauchamp of Somerset, senior, John de Bohun of Midhurst, and Hugh de Mortimer of Chelmersh, Salop, who were all of full age.

Adverting to the first set of writs, dated 27 February and 6 March, 1 E. III.:—the following is a translation of the pursuant inquisition taken in Somerset, before William Trussel, the escheator, at Rydeclyve (Redcliffe by Bristol?), 11 June, 1 E. III., 1327, on the oath of John Sprot and others, touching the lands and tenements which were of John de Meriet, in the county of Somerset. He held no lands or tenements of the King in chief in his demesne as of fee, in the county aforesaid, on the day of his death; but he held certain lands and tenements in Assheton-Daundo, in the county aforesaid (being jointly enfeoffed with Elizabeth, his wife, to them and the heirs of the said John for ever), of the heir of Alexander Dando by knight's service, which were worth yearly in all issues 100s. Also, the said John held certain lands and tenements in '*Hesercombe*,' in the said county (being jointly enfeoffed with Elizabeth, his wife, in manner as aforesaid), of the Bishop of Winchester,

as of his manor of Taunton, by knight's service, which were worth yearly in all issues £10. Also, the said John held certain lands and tenements in Capelonde, in the county aforesaid (being jointly enfeoffed with Elizabeth, his wife, in manner as aforesaid), of John de Acton, by knight's service, which were worth yearly in all issues 100s. John de Meriet, son of the said John, was his next heir, and was of the age of twenty years in the feast of St. Michael last past (1326). [Inq. p.m. 1 E. III (1 nrs) no. 50.]

(35). **Elizabeth**, second wife of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., of Hestercombe, and widow of Philip Paynel, of Combe-Kaynes and Rampisham, Dorset. She must have been married to Sir John de Meriet before 1306, as their son and heir was born in Michaelmas of that year. In June, 1306, Sir John de Meriet, by fine, conveyed his manors of Hestercombe and Leigh-Florey to feoffees to hold to the joint use of himself and Elizabeth, his wife, and to the right heirs of himself. [See (34) of these notes.]

She held in dower, as widow of Philip Paynel, the manor of Rampisham, and a moiety of the manor of Combe-Kaynes (called the manor of Southcombe), Dorset. [Hutchins' *Dorset*, last edit. i. 347, and ii. 692.]

The death of her son, John Paynel, in May, 1325, leaving two daughters his co-heirs [Esc. 18 E. II., no. 60] rendered it necessary to ascertain whether his mother (who was not residing in Dorsetshire) was then alive, with regard to the continuance of her right of dower in the manor of Rampisham, and as to her estate in fee in the manor of Southcombe, in Combe-Keynes; consequently, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, to whom application had been made, formally certified, under his hand, at Wyvelescumbe, on Wednesday after Mid-lent Sunday (5 March) 19 E. II., 1325-6, that on that day the *lady Elizabeth Paynel, wife of Sir John de Meriet, Kt.*, was with her husband in his *manor of Hestercombe* alive and in good health. [Reg. *Drokensford*, fol. 248b.] The late Mr. Hugo did not apprehend the purpose for which this certificate was required.

From a Plea of Assize in a suit respecting the right of ownership in and possession of the manor of Southcombe, or Paynel's manor in Combe-Kaynes, between John Pouger, or Pougher, of West Rasen, co. Lincoln, plaintiff (who was grandson and heir general of John Paynel), and William Filol and John, his son, defendants, tried at Dorchester, on Thursday next after the festival of St. Matthias the Apostle, 9 R. II. (1 March, 1385-6), before the King's judges of the Com. Pleas, viz., Sir Robert Bealknap, Chief Justice, and William Rykill, [Rolls of Assize, Divers Counties, 8-11 R. II. m. 14, (Press mark) $\left\{ \begin{smallmatrix} N \\ 2 \\ 30 \end{smallmatrix} \right\}$ 3] and from other evidences, it appears that Elizabeth's son, the aforesaid John Paynel, enlarged his mother's dower estate in the manor of Southcombe, by granting and releasing to her and her heirs all right and claim which he had therein, with warranty for himself and his heirs. Afterwards, by final concord in Michaelmas Term, 9 E. III., 1335, '*Int' Elizabeth. que fuit uxor Phi' Paynel, quer', et Simonem fil' Joh'is Meriet de Hestercombe, deforc'* ; Elizabeth, for £20 sterling, granted and released the said manor, under the appellation of the *moiety of the manor of Combe-Kaynes*, to the said Simon Meriet (her son) and his heirs, with warranty for herself and her heirs. [Fin. Conc. Dorset, 9 E. III. no. 91.]

Simon de Meriet, succeeding to his paternal inheritance of Hestercombe and other estates upon the death, in May, 19 E. III., 1345, of his uncle, Walter de Meriet [see note (38)], in Michaelmas Term, 19 E. III., 1345, by agreement between Ralph de Grey and Johanna, his wife, querents, and himself, as *Simon, son of John de Meriet, of Hestercombe, deforc'*, for the sum of 20 marks silver (£13 16s. 8d.) granted the said moiety of the manor of Combe-Kaynes, with warranty for himself and his heirs, to the said Ralph and Johanna and the heirs of Ralph for ever. [Fin. Conc. Dorset, 19 E. III. no. 162.] In 35 E. III., 1361, Ralph and Johanna Grey conveyed the manor in fee to Thomas parson of the church of Neubery (Newbury, Berks), John Galdyngton, and William parson

of the church of Chelrey (Childrey, Berks), who demised it in fee to Richard, Earl of Arundel, and Matthew Redeman. Thereon, the Earl of Arundel remitted all his right and claim to Redeman and his heirs, and Redeman in the following year, viz., 36 E. III., 1362, gave and granted the manor to William Filol and Mary his wife, to hold to them and the heirs of Mary, whereby the right of reversion therein vested in John Filol, their son. Judgment was pronounced in favour of the defendants, the Filols. [Compare also Hutchins' *Dorset*, last edition, i. 348 ; ii. 692 ; Inq. p.m. of John Paynel, 18 E. II. no. 60, and Inq. p.m. of Elizabeth Paynel, 19 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 19.]

Thus it is clear that Elizabeth, nine years before her death, gave and granted her freehold estate in the manor of Southcombe, which she had of the gift of her son John Paynel, to Simon de Meriet her second son by her second marriage, for his benefit, whilst retaining her life estates in dower in the manor of Rampisham (the inheritance of her first husband), and in the manors of Hestercombe, Assheton-Daundo and Capelond (the inheritance of her second husband). This preference for her second de Meriet son was stimulated, if not produced, by her elder son John de Meriet of Hestercombe, conveying in 7 E. III. 1333, the manor of Hestercombe and other estates of inheritance to his uncle, Walter de Meriet, to the exclusion of his own brother, Simon de Meriet. [See (37) of these notes.]

Elizabeth survived till 1344. A writ of '*diem clausit*' on her death, in which she is styled '*Elizabeth, que fuit uxor Phi. Paynel,*' was issued on 1 June, 19 E. III., 1345, to Thomas Cary the escheator in Somerset and Dorset ; and by the pursuant inquisition, taken at Chevereshut (Evershot), Dorset, on 16 June following it was found that she held the manor of Ramesham in dower of the inheritance of Elizabeth wife of Richard Grastrich and Margery wife of John Poucher, daughters and heirs of John, son and heir of the said Philip Paynel, (which manor was held) of John Giffard de Beefs as of his manor of

Coges, co. Oxford, by the service of 10s. annual rent, and was of the yearly value of 20 marks; that the said Elizabeth died on 16 November last past (1344) holding no other lands in the said escheator's jurisdiction in Dorset, and the aforesaid Elizabeth aged 25 years, and Margery aged 24 years, daughters and heirs of John, son and heir of the said Philip Paynel, were the nearest heirs of the blood of the said Elizabeth, deceased. [Esc. 19 E. III. (1 $\overline{\text{nrs}}$) no. 19.]

(36). Philip Paynel of Combe-Kaynes and Rampisham, Dorset, first husband of Elizabeth, was second son of John Paynel (who died in 1275) of Combe-Kaynes, by his wife Katherine, daughter and co-heir of Adam de Pyriton of Pyriton (Purton near Swindon), Wilts; and Rampisham, Dorset. He was born at Pyriton, 15 August, 1269, [Prob. ætatis 19 E. I. no. 104] succeeded his elder brother, John Paynel, who died 1287 s.p. [Esc. 15 E. I. no. 27]; and succeeded to the manor of Rampisham and Yard, as heir to his mother at her death, 1296. [Esc. 24 E. I. no. 116.] He received various summonses to perform military service in July, 1297; and May, 1298. [Parliamentary Writs.]

Writs of '*diem clausit*,' on his death were tested at Canterbury, 24 May, 27 E. I., 1299; and by the pursuant inquisitions, taken in Lincolnshire and Dorset on 25 and 26 June following, it was found that he held, with other manors and lands, the manors of West and Middle Rasen, co. Lincoln; and the manors of Rampisham and Combe-Kaynes; and that John Paynel was his son and next heir, aged one year on 24 December last past (1298). [Esc. 27 E. I. no. 51.] He bore on his shield, Gules, a cross patteé argent. [Aubrey's *Wilts* under *Pyriton*.]

John Paynel, the son and heir, who was born 24 December, 1297, succeeded to the inheritance of these manors; and, as shewn in note (35), he granted and released in fee to Elizabeth, his mother, the manor of Southcombe, in which hitherto she held only an estate in dower for her life. By inquisitions on

his death, taken pursuant to writs tested at Froyle, 29 May, 18 E. II (1325), it was found that Elizabeth, wife of Richard, son of John Gastrick, and Margery Paynel were his daughters and next heirs. [Esc. 18 E. II. no. 60.]

(37). *John de Meriet*, son and heir of Sir John de Meriet, Kt., of Hestercombe, and Elizabeth, his second wife. By the inquisition on his father's death [see note (34)] he was found to be 20 years of age at Michaelmas, 1326. [Esc. 1 E. III. no. 50.] By reason of this minority the guardianship of his lands in Capelond, together with the next presentation to the church of Capelond, devolved to Sir John de Acton, Kt., as chief lord of the fee: consequently, the living becoming vacant, Sir John de Acton, on 12 of the Kalends of July (20 June), 1328, as patron for that turn, presented Geoffry, called 'Barlinch de Cosynton' (Geoffry Barlinch of Cossington, near Bridgwater?) to the church of Capelond. [*Register Drokensford*, fol. 271.]

In April, 7 E. III. (1333), and again in the octave of Hilary 11 E. III. (1337-8), a fine was made between *Walter, son of Lucy de Meriet*, querent, by his substitute, Stephen Percehaye, and '*John de Meryet de Hestercumbe*,' deforciant, whereby John de Meriet, for 100 marks silver (£66 13s. 4d.), conveyed in fee to the said Walter the reversion of the manors of Hestercombe and Legh-Flory, after the death of Elizabeth the widow of John de Meriet, deceased, who was holding the same for her life; the reversion of the manor of Capelond after the death of the said Elizabeth, who was holding the same in dower; the reversion of one messuage, one (water) mill, and one virgate of land in Meryet, after the death of John de Bath ('Bathon'), who was holding the same for his life; the reversion of one messuage and half a virgate of land in the ville of Coumbe-Flory, after the death of John Atte-Brome, who was holding the same for his life; all of which were of the inheritance of the said John de Meryet (party to the fine). Likewise the fee (in possession) of one messuage, two carucates and half a virgate of land,

22 acres of meadow, 30 acres of pasture, and 10 acres of wood ; with 52s., and 2lbs. of cummin and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of pepper of rent ; one knight's fee and $\frac{1}{16}$, with the appurtenances (all being) in Ashton Daundo, Yaford, and Lydeard St. Lawrence, in Somerset ; with the homages and services of John Gyan and Emma his wife, Thomas Cunduyt, William de Asshelond, William de la Pole and Edith his wife, and Thomas de Bykefold, for their several holdings in the said villes ; also of one knight's fee, and the homages and services of John de Cormailles and John Madhurst for their several holdings in Eston-Boloygne, in co. Southampton ; and 6d. of rent and one knight's fee in Hemelesworth (in the parish of Wichampton), Dorset, to have and to hold (all) to the said Walter de Meriet and his heirs of the chief lords of the several fées by the services which appertained thereto for ever. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 11 E. III. no. 221.]

Thus he displaced his younger brother Simon, as his heir, from the succession to his manors and lands, &c., in favour of his uncle, Walter de Meriet. This proceeding bears close relation, as cause, to that of his mother, Elizabeth, in Michaelmas Term, 1335—mentioned above in note (35)—viz., the giving to her younger son, Simon de Meriet, all the estate and interest which she held by the gift of her eldest son, John Paynel, in the manor of Combe-Kaynes, Dorset.

No inquisition appears to have been taken on the death of this John de Meriet, and the presumption is that no writ was issued on the occasion. It is evident that he left no lawful issue, as his brother Simon succeeded to the inheritance of Hestercombe and other manors and lands, &c., on the death of Walter de Meriet, the uncle, in 1345. [See note (38).]

(38). **Walter de Meriet**:—he is frequently styled '*Walter son of Lucy de Meriet*.' [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 31 E. I. no. 105 ; Fin. Conc. Somerset, 32 E. I. no. 118 ; Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 11 E. III. no. 221 ; Fines Roll, 1 E. III. memb. 29 ; Originalia Roll, 6 E. III. rot. 16 ; Placita Coram Rege, Easter

6 E. III. rot. civ. ; County Placita Somerset, 7 E. III. no. 72 ; Petitions to the King in Council, 8 E. III. no. 5574.]

He was in Holy Orders [Petitions to the King in Council no. 5770 ; Esc. 17 E. III (2 *nrs*) no. 43 ; Originalia Roll 17 E. III. rot. 13 & 19 ; and Fin. Conc. Devon, 18 E. III. no. 177] ; and judging by his appointment he was one of the Secular clergy.

Several transfers and settlements of manors and lands, to which Walter de Meriet was a party, have been already particularised in note (32), viz., the purchase in fee by him and Lucy, his mother, of a messuage and land in Plassh and Willet in June, 1303 ; the purchase in fee by him and Lucy, his mother, of a messuage and land in Cerneheye by Taunton (now called Sawneys, or Zawneys, in the parish of Trull), in June, 1304 ; the purchase in fee by him and Lucy, his mother, of two messuages, land and rents in Culm-Sachville, Strawquill, and Yard-Down by Bradninch, Devon, in May, 1305 ; the recording his claim on the back of the fine when John de Meriet, his brother, settled a life estate of the manors of Hestercombe and Legh-Flory on Elizabeth, his second wife, in June, 1306 ; the purchase in fee by him from Lucy de Meriet, his mother, of two messuages and lands in Withycombe, in June, 1307 ; his settling, in November, 1311, the manor of Bratton, the manor and advowson of the church of Bradeford-by-Welyngton and lands in Lydyard St. Lawrence and Milverton on Lucy, his mother, for life, with remainder to her daughter Hawisia and her issue, with reversion to himself ; and his settling, in Nov., 1313, the same manors, advowson and lands on Lucy, his mother, for life, with remainder to John de Berkeley and the said Hawisia, then his wife, and the issue of Hawisia, with reversion to himself and his heirs.

In the returns of the names of the lords of townships, &c., for the purpose of effecting the military levies ordained in the Parliament at Lincoln (in January, 9 E. II.), made pursuant to separate writs, tested at Clipston (co. Northampton) 5 March,

9 E. II., 1315-6, Walter de Meriet is certified as one of the lords of Withycombe in the Hundred of Carhampton; Ralph Fitz Urse being the other. [Parliamentary Writs.]

On 16 Kalends of January, 1320-1 (17 December, 1320), Walter de Meriet, lord of the manor, presented Simon Sauvage, acolyte, to the church of Bradeford, on the resignation of Richard de Forde, Canon of Wells, who had accepted the Treasurership of Wells. [Register *Droghda* 165.]

On 28 January, 1322-3 Walter de Meriet was collated (on the resignation of Henry Nyweton) to the Chancellorship of the Church of Exeter, and installed 15 March following. He held the office till 1335, if not longer. [Le Neve's *Fasti* by Hardy, I. 418; Oliver's *Exeter Cathedral*, 281.] Oliver also states that in 28 E. III. (1354), the King granted license to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Cathedral to appropriate a house in Exeter to maintain the anniversary of William (Walter?) de Meriet "*nuper Cancellarii Ecclesiæ Exoniensis.*"

On 24 April, 1327, Walter de Meriet was made a Prebendary in the Cathedral Church of Wells on the death of Richard de Ford (who was Treasurer of the Diocese). (Le Neve's *Fasti* by Hardy I. 137.) [Harl. MSS. 6964, p. 106.]

On 18 Kalends of May (14 April), 1330, Ralph de Salopia, Bishop of Bath and Wells, in the parish church of Dogmarsfield, in the diocese of Winchester, instituted William Rospyn, presbyter, into the church of Wydecombe (Withycombe), on the presentation of Walter de Meryet. [Harl. MSS. 6965, p. 32.]

A dispute having arisen between Ralph de Camoys and 'Walter son of Lucy de Meryet' as to the right of ownership in the manor of Bradeford by Taunton, Somerset, the former, by writ dated 10 October, 7 E. II. (1313), brought an action against the latter. The hearing of the case began at Westminster before Sir William de Bereford, chief justice, and his associate judges of the Common Pleas, in Hilary Term, 8 E. II. (1314-5), when Ralph Camoys, by his attorney, William

Tebaud, claimed from Walter, son of Lucy de Meryet, the manor of Bradeford by Taunton, with its appurtenances (excepting 1 garden, 82 acres of arable, 4 acres of meadow, 2 messuages, and the fourth part of one other messuage in the same manor), as his right and inheritance, in which manor the same Walter had no entry except by Lucy de Meryet (his mother), to whom John de Camoys, late husband of Margaret de Camoys, mother of Ralph (whose heir he was), demised it, to which demise Margaret could not object in her life time; and thence Ralph argued that Margaret, his mother, was seised thereof in her demesne as of fee and right in the time of King Edward I., she taking and receiving the whole issues and profits of the same, from which Margaret the right descended to the said Ralph, the claimant, as her son and heir. To this, Walter de Meryet, by his attorney, Simon Sauvage, replied that he could not restore the manor because he was not holding it, nor did he hold it on the day of the obtaining the writ (10 Oct., 7 E. II. 1313). Whereupon issue was joined, and they both required to refer the case to a jury of the neighbourhood. For which purpose the Sheriff (John de Erle) was ordered to summon twelve men in the octave of John Baptist (24 June—1 July, 1315). The matter was then delayed, and not resumed till the quinzaine of Michaelmas, 19 E. II. (1325), when the parties appeared in court at Westminster, and a jury of 12 men was chosen, viz., William de Mulburn, or Mulebourne, Reginald de Frome (of South Cadbury), John de Ievilton, Thomas de Spekynton, John Bisshop, John son of Peter de Dreycote, Robert de Lucy, Roger Torel, Hugh de Cleyhangre, Ralph Welweton, Nicholas Gyan, and John de DoumERE, or Dimmere, who upon oath found that the said Walter de Meriet was holding the manor and premises on the day of obtaining the writ (10 October, 1313.) Judgment was accordingly pronounced in favour of Ralph de Camoys, that he should recover his seisin of the manor against Walter de Meriet.

Against this judgment Walter de Meriet appealed, alledging

that the jury on the inquiry swore falsely in stating that he was holding the manor on the day of issuing the original writ (10 October, 1313), because that before that day by final concord made at Westminster before William de Bereford and his associate justices of the Common Pleas in 5 E. II. (1311), as between him, and Simon le Sauvage, [this fine is given at length in (32) of these notes] he granted the manor to the said Simon for life, with remainder to Lucy de Meryet for her life, and with further remainder to Hawisia, daughter of the said Lucy, to hold to her and her issue, and failing such issue, with reversion to himself and his heirs, and the said Simon le Sauvage granted his life estate therein to the said Lucy, &c.; so that it was after the making of that fine, and during the tenancy of Lucy, that Ralph de Camois took out the writ of claim. To which writ he had pleaded, as is above said, and the jury had been respited to the said quinzaine of Michaelmas, 19 E. II. (1325), during which interval of time (Michaelmas, 1313, to Michaelmas, 1325), the said Lucy died, and also the said Hawisia died without heirs of her body, whereby he (Walter) became seised of the manor by right of reversion, and so was holding it at the time when the jury on the inquiry exceeded (their duty), and by whose false oath on that inquiry he lost the manor:—wherefore he demanded a jury, &c. Thereon, a day was assigned for the hearing, and the Sheriff was required to summon a jury of 24 of knights and others.

For the purpose of proceeding against the twelve jurymen of the original inquisition, Walter, son of Lucy de Meriet, on payment of a fee of 10s. into the exchequer, obtained a *Writ of Attaint* against them, dated 4 February, 1326-7. [Fines Roll, 1 E. III. m. 29.] After several delays a day was finally assigned for the hearing, viz., the quinzaine of Michaelmas, 5 E. III. (1331), when the jury of 24, of knights and others, on their oath stated that the twelve jurors on the original inquiry made a false oath in saying that Walter de Meryet held the manor

on 10 October, 7 E. II. (1313). They also found that the manor was worth £80 per annum, and assessed the damages to be paid to Walter at 1000 marks (£816. 13s. 4d). Judgment was accordingly pronounced that Walter de Meriet should re-have the manor, and recover from Ralph de Camoys damages to the amount of 1000 marks; eleven jurors of the first inquiry (John de Ievelton, one of the twelve, having died), were to lose their freedom; their goods and chattels to be forfeited; their lands and tenements taken into the King's hand and extirpated; their wives and children turned out; and the person of Ralph de Camoys seized. Order was accordingly given to the Sheriff of Somerset to carry out the judgment.

Afterwards, by force of a precept to the Sheriff of Somerset, Ralph de Camoys, by his attorney, Henry de Bourne, and Walter de Meryet, by his attorney, Stephen Percehay, in the quinzaine of Trinity (6 E. III., 1332), appeared, &c., when the finding of the last jury was argued and confirmed; and it was ordered that Walter de Meryet should retain the manor and have its issues for the whole six years intervening from the time of the finding of the first jury to the day of the verdict of the twenty-four jurymen, viz., from the quinzaine of Michaelmas, 19 E. II. (1325), to the quinzaine of Michaelmas, 5 E. III. (1331); the value of which issues for the six years, at £80 per annum, amounting to 720 marks, should be paid to him by the said Ralph. And as regarded 280 marks, the residue of the 1000 marks awarded to Walter, as damages, the court not being advised whether he ought to have further damages beyond the aforesaid amount of issues of the manor, a day was given for the further hearing thereof, viz., in the quinzaine of Hilary, 7 E. III. (1332-3), which was again deferred; but in the meanwhile the issues of the manor were adjudicated to Walter to the amount of 720 marks. [County Placita, Somerset, no. 72; Placita Coram Rege, Easter, 6 E. III., rot. ciiii.]

By petition to the King, '*Walter de Meriet, clerk,*' prayed

execution of the damages accorded to him in the above suit. [Petitions to the King in Council, no. 5770.]

The severe sentence pronounced upon the eleven surviving jurors on the first inquiry was carried out, and they were committed to the Flete prison in the parish of St. Brigida (St. Bride's) in the ward of Farendon, in the suburbs of London, to the custody of Edmond de Cheyny, the governor. From whence William de Mulebourne, the first of these jurors, made supplication to the King, that having been kept in prison for a long while, he might, upon payment of a reasonable fine, be liberated, and his goods and chattels and lands, &c., restored to him. The King thereon, compassionating the case, issued his writ accordingly to Geoffry le Scrop, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and his associate judges, dated from York, 20 October, 6 E. III (1332). [Originalia Roll, 6 E. III., rot. 16.]

It has been already observed that John de Ievilton, one of the twelve jurors, had died before the trial for perjury. By an inquisition on the death of Reginald de Frome, one of the remaining eleven jurors, taken on 20 August, 7 E. III. (1333), pursuant to writ dated 16 July preceding, it was found that the said Reginald de Frome died, before release, in the prison of the Flete on 24 June, 7 E. III. (1333); and by another inquisition taken at Somerton on 29 November following, it was found that before his conviction of perjury, he and Margaret his wife, held a third part of the manor of Suthcadburi (South Cadbury) in dower of the said Margaret, by dotation of John du Boys, her former husband, and by the assignment of John Pauncefot, the chief lord, of whom the manor was held; and that she held the other two parts of the manor in allowance of dower from the other lands of her late husband, John du Boys, in Phelippeston, Dorset; Nytherhampton, Wilts; and Bytewode and Dounhevede, Somerset, from 2 E. II. (1308), to the day when the manor of Suthcadburi was seized into the King's hand in consequence of the said Reginald's conviction of perjury (at Michaelmas, 1331); and the said manor was held

by knight's service, and was worth £19 per annum. [Escheat, 7 E. III. (2 $\overline{\text{nrs}}$) no. 13.]

With regard to the manor of Bradeford:—Sir John de Gatesden, Kt., held the manor at the time of his death, which occurred about April, 46 H. III., 1262. [Compare Fines Roll, 46 H. III., ms. 2, 8 and 13, and Inq. p.m. 53 H. III. no. 19.] Hawisia de Neville, his widow, then held the manor until the King should assign her a reasonable dower out of her said husband's lands. [Fines Roll, 46 H. III. m. 2.] She was daughter and heir of Robert le Sauvage of Brawatre, (Broadwater), Sussex. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 33 H. III. no. 231.] As the manor of Broadwater passed to her step-granddaughter and her issue, we may conclude that Hawisia died s.p., and that by special limitation, Broadwater was settled on her husband, Sir John de Gatesden, and his heirs in the event of her dying without issue. On Hawisia's death the King issued a mandamus, dated 10 April, 53 H. III. (1269), to John le Moyne, the escheator on this side Trent, to take a valuation of all the manors, &c., that Hawisia de Neville, widow, deceased, held as well in dower from John de Gatesden, her late husband, as by his feoffment for her life. To this writ four separate valuations are annexed, containing details, in one of which it is stated that he held lands in Somerset of the heirs of Katherine de Montacute. The King also, by another mandamus, dated two days later, viz., 12 April, 53 H. III. (1269), required the same escheator to take a valuation of, and to deliver to Robert Walerand, all the manors and lands of Sir John de Gatesden, deceased, reciting that, having by his letters patent pledged himself to provide a marriage portion for Robert Walerand, he had already granted to him the marriage of the daughter and heir of John de Gatesden, (junior), deceased, and 200 marks (£133. 6s. 8d.) out of the lands of her inheritance until she should come of age. A valuation was accordingly made, when it was found that the manor of Bradeford was worth £24 per annum. [Inq. 53 H. III. no. 19, and Inq. incerto tempore

H. III. no. 84.] N.B.—The last document here referred to is much damaged, and the date obliterated, but it certainly formed part of the same valuation.

Sir John de Gatesden, Kt., (senior), had by a former wife, Ermigerda de Bidun (who died before 1255), an elder son John de Gatesden, junior. This John de Gatesden was required by the King to go on a special message into Spain, in 1256. [Fines Roll, 40 H. III., mem. 10]; and his death may have happened in consequence of this expedition, for it is recorded that John de Gatesden, junior, died on 25 November, 1258, holding the manors of Gatesden and Stanbrugge, Herts; and Trotton, Demeford, Elvested, and Dedling, Sussex, and leaving an only daughter and heir, Margaret de Gatesden, who was 13 years of age on 22 January, 43 H. III., 1258-9. This child was therefore born 22 January, 1245-6. [Inq. p.m., 43 H. III. no. 40.]

Afterwards, Margery, widow of John de Gatesden, junior, and Richard de Gatesden, his brother, for a fine of 60 marks, obtained from the King, in 1269, a grant of the custody of her late husband's lands. [Fines Roll, 43 H. III. m. 1.]

We also learn that prior to his death this John de Gatesden had granted a moiety of the manor of Graffham (a member of the manor of Wool Lavington, Sussex), in free marriage with his daughter Margaret to John de Camoys. [Placita Coram Rege, Easter, 12 E. II., 1319. Abbrev. Plac, p. 334.]

This marriage afterwards took place, notwithstanding the King's grant, already noticed, of her marriage to Robert Walerand. She became heir to her grandfather, Sir John de Gatesden, Kt., in 1262:—consequently, upon the death of Hawisia, his widow, in 1269, all the Gatesden manors and lands, including this manor of Bradeford, devolved by inheritance to her and her husband, John de Camoys, and their issue.

In the reign of H. III. William de Montacute, uncle and heir of Katherine de Montacute, held in his demesne as of fee of the King in chief (besides other manors) the manors of

Chynnock, Chyselberg, Norton and Bradeford in Somerset; Stockholte in Bucks; Heycton, or Heckton, in Sussex; and Lerky in Cornwall; and under him by subinfeudation, Sir John de Gatesden, Kt., held the manor of Bradeford. At William de Montacute's decease in 1247, these manors descended to his two daughters and coheirs, viz., Margaret, who married William de Echingham and died circa November 1257 s.p.; and Isabell, who married, 1st, Ralph de la Haye, s.p., 2d, Thomas de Aldeham, or Audeham (who died in 1276 leaving issue), and 3d, Richard de Pevenesy (who died 1323 s.p.) On the death of Margaret, the sole inheritance in these lordships devolved to her sister, Isabell, and her heirs. Between November, 1257, and November, 1258, a final agreement respecting these manors was made before the King at Winchester between John de Gatesden (father of Margaret, wife of John de Camoys,) querent, and the said Thomas de Audeham, and Isabel his wife, deforciant, the purpose of which, in the absence of the record, is unknown, but probably was for the defining of ownership and the respective rights of either party. After the marriage of Richard de Pevenesy with Isabel, the widow of Thomas de Aldeham (which took place before September, 1279), John de Camoys and Margaret, his wife, deforced from them the manor of Bradeford and moieties of the manors of Norton and Heckton, contrary to the stipulations and agreements of that concord.

For the purpose, therefore, of settling disputes, a final agreement was passed in the King's court at Guildford, on Sunday next after the feast of St. Nicholas, 8 E. I. (10 December, 1279), between Richard de Pevenesy and Isabel, his wife, querents, and John de Cameys and Margaret, his wife, deforciant, in respect of all these manors, whereby John de Camoys and his wife granted to Richard and Isabel, and her heirs, a certain rent in Fletching, Sussex, and two-thirds of the advowson of the church there, and the manor of Heckton; and remitted and quit-claimed to them all rights in the manors of Brembeltye and

Jevyngton, Sussex, with the advowsons of the churches of Chyselberg and Jevyngton, and of Langeberg (Longborough), co. Gloucester. For which grant and remission Richard de Pevenesy and his wife granted to John and Margaret and her heirs the manors of Norton and Bradeford, Somerset, and the advowsons of those churches; and remitted and quit-claimed to them all right in the manors of Stockholte, Bucks; Bradewater and Bovigeton, Sussex; and Elynge, co. Southampton. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 8 E. I. no. 91, and Placita Coram Rege Michmas, 2 and 3 E. I., rot 7 in dorse. Abbre. Plac. 187.] Comparing the record of the trial at law between Ralph de Camoys and Walter de Meriet, of which the details are given above, with other evidence, it is clear that John de Camoys granted the manor of Bradeford, in fee, together with the advowson of the church to Walter de Meriet and his heirs.

On the death of John, Lord Mohun of Dunster, in 1330, it was found that Walter de Meriet held the following fees of the barony of Dunster, viz., Biccombe (in the parish of Timberscombe), Ellesworth (Elworthy), and Willet (in the parish of Elworthy) in Somerset, and Mapperton-Bret, in Dorset, by the service of four knights' fees, and Luxborough-Everard, Oaktrow (in the parish of Cutcombe), and Allercot (in the parish of Carhampton), in Somerset, by the service of a fourth part of a knight's fee. [Inq. p.m. of John de Mohun, 4 E. III. no. 35, as quoted in Savage's *History of the Hundred of Carhampton*, p. 478.]

By agreement in the quinzaine of Hilary, 4 E. III. (January, 1330-1), Robert de Chippelegh, deforciant, for 40 marks (£26. 13s. 4d.) granted to Walter de Meriet, querent, and his heirs, the reversion in fee of 1 messuage, 1 garden, 67 acres of arable land, 9½ acres of meadow, and 7 acres of moorland in Bishop's Lydyard and Hethfeld, on the death of Joan de Worcester (de *Wygornia*), who was holding the same for her life. [Fin. Conc., Somerset, 4 E. III., no. 73.]

On 14 of the kalends of April (19 March), 1333, at Bocland,

Ralph de Salopia, Bishop of Bath and Wells, instituted John de Middleton, presbyter, into the church of Bradeford, on the presentation of Walter de Meriet. [Harl. MSS. 6965, p. 70.]

On 7 of the Ides of July (9 July), 1333, Henry Percehay was instituted by Bishop Ralph de Salopia into the church of Widecombe (Withycombe) on the presentation of Walter de Meriet. [Harl. MSS. 6965 p. 72.]

On 8 of the kalends of November (25 October), 1334, Reginald de Buggewelle, acolyte, was instituted on the resignation of Henry Percehaye, by Bishop Ralph de Salopia into the church of Wydecombe (Withycombe), on the presentation of Walter de Meriet. [Harl. MSS. 6965 p. 83]. This Reginald de Bugwell was by papal provision admitted Dean of Exeter 28 June, 1353. [Le Neve's *Fasti* by Hardy, I. 385.]

On 8 of the kalends of November (25 October), 1334, at Cherde (Chard), Bishop Ralph de Salopia instituted John le Mason, presbyter, into the church of Estcapelonde on the presentation of Walter de Meriet. [Harl. MSS. 6965, p. 82.]

By agreement in October, 7 E. III. (1333), and again in June, 11 E. III. (1337), William Freman and Elen his wife, deforciant, for £200 sterling, conveyed to Walter de Meryet, querent, and his heirs, a carucate of land in Yartecumbe, Devon, on the deaths of Margery widow of John Croke, and William le Speek, who were holding the same for their lives of the inheritance of the said Elen; and 1 messuage and 15 acres of land in Bishop's Lydyard on the death of Walter Trot; 1 messuage and 45 acres of land in Bishop's Lydeard on the deaths of Roger atte-Walle and John Cley; 1 messuage, 1 carucate of land, 18 acres of meadow, 5 acres of moorland, a third part of a messuage, and a third part of a mill in Bishop's Lydeard, which Hugh de Gurney and Isabel his wife, were holding in right of her dower; 2 messuages, 1 carucate of land, 12 acres of meadow in Kyngesbury, which Hugh de Gurney, and Isabel his wife, were holding for her life; and the fee in possession of two-thirds of a messuage and two thirds of a mill at Bishop's

Lydyard; and likewise of two messuages, 1 carucate, and 40 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 4 acres of wood, 15 acres of moorland; 36s., and 1 lb. of wax, and 1 lb. of cummin of rent in Bishop's Lydyard, Kyngeston, and Kyngesbury, Somerset; together with the homages and services of Robert de Pavely, and Alice his wife, Robert de Childecote, William de Membury, and William Pour, and their heirs, for their several holdings in the said villes, with warranty from the said William Freman and Elen and her heirs. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 11 E. III. no 206.]

By final agreement in October, 11 E. III. (1337), and again in the octave of Hilary, 12 E. III. (1338-9), Elen, widow of William Freman, deforciant, for 40 marks silver (£26. 13s. 4d.) conveyed to Walter de Meryet, querent, and his heirs, with warranty, the reversion of 1 messuage, 50 acres of land, 8 acres of meadow, 2 acres of moorland, and 3 acres of aldergrove in Yartcombe, Devon, which Ralph Speeke was holding during the life of Margaret wife of Thomas Peverel, of the inheritance of the said Elen. [Fin. Conc. Devon, 11 E. III. no. 120.]

It has been already shown in note (37) that by a final agreement made in 1333 John de Meriet of Hestercombe (his nephew) conveyed to him in fee, by the style of *Walter, son of Lucy de Meriet*, and to his heirs, the reversion of the manors of Hestercombe, Legh-Flory and Capelond on the death of Elizabeth, widow of John de Meriet; and messuages, lands, and rents, &c., in Ashton-Daundo, Combe-Flory, Yaford, Lydiard St. Lawrence and Meryet, Somerset; and 1 knight's fee in Eston-Boloygne, co. Southampton; and 6d. annual rent, and 1 knight's fee in Hemelesworth, Dorset. [Finc. Conc. Divers Counties, 11 E. III. no. 221.]

By final agreement in October, 12 E. III. (1338), William Percehay and John Hankyn, deforciant, acknowledged the manor of Bradeford by Welyngton to be the right of Walter de Meryet, and they rendered it to the same Walter and John de

Milton, clerk, querents, to hold to them and the heirs of Walter; for which acknowledgment and render, the latter parties granted for themselves and the heirs of Walter that they would give and pay to the same William Percehay for his life 100s. per annum, with power of distraint in case of default. [Final Conc., Somerset, 12 E. III. no. 51.] N.B.—Bradeford by Welyngton is the same place as Bradeford by Taunton.

Pursuant to a writ of inquiry, dated 28 April, 15 E. III. (1341), and directed to John de Caneford of Wellop, escheator in Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall, an inquisition was taken at Taunton, on Wednesday in the week of Pentecost, 15 E. III. (30 May, 1341), when it was found not to be to the King's damage to allow Walter de Meryet to grant and assign 9 acres of meadow in Taunton (worth 20s. per annum, and held of the Bishop of Winchester as of his manor of Taunton, by the service of 7s. per annum), to the Friars of the blessed Mary of Mount Carmel, who were about to settle in Taunton and build a church and habitation there under the rules and discipline of their Order, to hold to them and their successors for ever. The jury also found that beyond the said 9 acres there remained to the said Walter de Meryet the manor of Combe-flory, which was within the liberty of the Bishop of Winchester, and held of him by the service of one knight's fee and worth £20 per annum. [Esc. 15 E. III. (2 $\overline{\text{nrs}}$) no. 58.]

Pursuant to another writ of inquiry, dated 12 May, 17 E. III. (1343), and directed to Edward Stradlyng, the escheator in Somerset and Dorset, an inquisition was taken at Bruggewater on Tuesday after the festival of Peter and Paul, apostles, 17 E. III. (1 July, 1343), when it was found not to be to the King's damage if Walter de Meryet, *clerk*, gave and granted to the King and his heirs 9 acres of meadow called Cokkesmede in Taunton, so that the King might give and assign the same to the Friars of the Order of the blessed Mary of Mount Carmel (for the purpose recited in the preceding Inquisition); and likewise if Walter de Meryet assigned 7s. of annual rent, or land

to that value, to the Bishop of Winchester and his successor, of whom the 9 acres were held, in recompense for the 7s. annual service hitherto paid to the Bishop on the said 9 acres. [Esc. 17 E. III. (2 *nrs*) no. 43.]

On 5 August, 17 E. III. (1343), the King issued a mandamus from Claryndon to John de Membury and Robert de Somerton to receive seisin of the 9 acres of meadow in Taunton, which Walter de Meriet, *clerk*, had by his deed given and granted to the King. [Originalia Rolls, 17 E. III. rot. 19.]

Afterwards, the King issued a mandamus, dated at Langele 13 November, 17 E. III. (1343), to Edward de Stradelyng, the escheator in Somerset and Dorset, to the following effect:—Whereas by a proceeding in Chancery it has been deemed advisable to recall, cancel, and annul the King's charter of grant to the Friars of the Order of Mary of Mount Carmel of 9 acres of meadow, called Cokkesmede, in Taunton, which Walter de Meriet, *clerk*, had by his deed given to the King for that purpose; therefore the King commands his said escheator to take and seize the said meadow into the King's hand without delay, and be answerable at the King's exchequer for the issues and profits thereof. [Originalia Roll, 17 E. III. rot. 13.]

By agreement in October, 18 E. III. (1344), Walter de Meryet, *clerk*, deforciant, granted to Robert de Somerton and Thomas his son, the manor of Bratton, Devon, to hold to them and their heirs, with warranty for Walter de Meryet and his heirs. [Fin. Conc. Devon, 18 E. III. no. 127.]

Upon the death of Walter de Meriet, writs of '*diem clausit*' were issued on 7 June, 19 E. III. (1345), to the escheators in Devon, Somerset, and Dorset. By the pursuant inquisition taken at Bradenech (Bradninch), Devon, before John de Chevereston, the escheator, on Saturday next before the feast of the Nativity of John Baptist, 19 E. III. (18 June, 1345), it was found that Walter de Meryet held no lands in Devon,

either in his demesne, or in service, in fee of the King in chief ; but that he held of Henry de Umfravyll, by the service of half a knight's fee, one messuage and two carucates of land at Colmp-Reigny (Culm-Sachville), in the tithing of Moncke-Colmp (Monkculm), worth 60s. per annum ; that the said Walter died on 18 May last. (1345), and that Simon, son of John de Meriet, was his nearest of kin and heir, and of the age of 30 years and more.

By the inquisition taken at Taunton before Thomas Cary, the escheator in Somerset and Dorset, on Friday in the feast of St. Botulph, 19 E. III. (17 June, 1345), it was found that Walter de Meryet held no lands or tenements in Somerset, either in his demesne or in service, in fee (of the King in chief) ; but that he held of the Bishop of Winchester in demesne as of fee, by military service, the Manor of Combe-flory, worth £10 per annum ; one carucate (100 acres) of land in Hestercombe, worth 60s. per annum ; half a carucate of land in Hokcombe (by Lydeard St. Lawrence), worth 40s. per annum ; also of the same Bishop, in free socage, and for an annual rent of 20s., one carucate of land in Cerney (by Taunton), worth 40s. per annum ; and likewise, at an annual rent of 7s., nine acres of meadow, in Taunton, called Cokesmede, worth 15s. per annum : also of the Bishop of Bath (and Wells), in demesne as of fee, by military service, one messuage and three carucates of land in Wyke, worth £10 per annum ; also of the Earl of Pembroke, Maurice de Berkele and John de Bures, by like tenure and service, as of their manor of Milverton, one carucate of land in Bykeleye, worth 40s. per annum ; also of Geoffry de Stawelle, by like tenure and service, one carucate of land in Pillegh, worth 40s. per annum ; also of John de Mohun, by like tenure and service, two carucates of land in Wydecombe (Withycombe) and Escote, worth 100s. per annum, one carucate of land in Elleworthy and Plassh, worth 60s. per annum, and half a carucate of land in Brompton-Rauf, worth 20s. per annum ; also of Sir John de Acton, Kt., by like tenure and service, one

carucate of land in Capelond, worth 60s. per annum. He also, together with John de Milton, who was then surviving, held the manor of Bradeford by Welyngton of John de St. Clare, as of his manor of Chuselbure (Chiselbergh) by military service, of the gift and grant of William Percehay and John Hankyn, by fine made in court (in October, 1338), with reversion to the said Walter and his heirs, which manor was worth 40 marks (£26. 13s. 4d.) per annum; and he held in his demesne as of fee of Thomas de Berkeley, by the service of finding a horse worth 5s., to carry the said Thomas de Berkeley's armour in Wales during the war there in lieu of all other services, two carucates of land in Asshton-Daundo, worth 100s. per annum. He died on 17 May last (1345) without issue, and Simon, son of John de Meriet his brother, was his kinsman and nearest heir, of the age of 30 years and more. [Inq. p.m., 19 E. III. (1 $\overline{\text{nrs}}$) no. 55.]

(39). **Simon Meriet**, son of John, succeeded accordingly to his paternal inheritance of Hestercombe, and other manors and lands belonging.

It has been already observed in note (35) that in Michaelmas Term, 1335, his mother, Elizabeth, as widow of Philip Paynel, granted to him, as Simon, son of John de Meriet of Hestercombe, the manor of Combe-Kaynes, Dorset, to hold to him and his heirs; and that her doing so was probably in consequence of John de Meryet, her elder son, settling all his manors and lands on Walter de Meriet, his uncle, in preference to his own brother Simon. It has been also shewn in the same note that in Michaelmas Term, 1345, soon after he had come into possession of his paternal inheritance, he, as Simon, son of John de Meriet of Hestercombe, alienated to Ralph de Grey and Joan his wife, the manor of Combe Kaynes, to hold to them and the heirs of Ralph.

By agreement in February, 1346-7, Thomas de Stonore and William de Kyletru, or Kyletre, for the consideration of 40 marks silver (£26. 13s. 4d.) granted to Simon de Meriet and

Margery his wife, and the heirs of Simon, the reversion of a messuage, 150 acres of land, 8 acres of meadow, 2 acres of moor, and 3 acres of alder-grove in Yartecombe (Yarcombe), Devon, in the occupation of Thomas Belton and Isabel his wife, on the death of Margaret, widow of Thomas Peverell, who was holding the same for her life of the inheritance of the said William de Kyletre. [Fin. Conc. Devon, Hil., 21 E. III. no. 213.]

And by another agreement in the same month and year, Simon de Meriet conveyed in fee to Thomas de Stonore and William Kyletre, the manors of Wydecombe (Withycombe by Dunster), Assheton, Capelond, Wyke (near Taunton), a messuage, 15 acres of land, and 20s. of rent in Bishop's Lydeard and Kyngeston, Somerset, to hold to the use of himself, Margery his wife, and his own heirs; subject nevertheless, as regarded a third part of the manor of Wyke, to the dower therein of Isabel, wife of Thomas Belton, and as regarded the messuage and 15 acres in Bishop's Lideyard, to the life estate therein of Walter Trot. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, Hil., 21 E. III. no. 6.] These two proceedings were probably taken by way of settlement on his marriage with Margery.

In April, 1347, he received confirmation of title to the manor and advowson of the church of Bradeford by Taunton, by a final accord, wherein Sir Thomas de Camoys, for the consideration of 100 marks silver (£66. 13s. 4d.), granted, remitted, and quit-claimed for himself and his heirs, with warranty, the said manor and advowson to Simon de Meriet and John de Middleton (or Milton), cleric, and the heirs of Simon. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 21 E. III. no 1.] This was preceded by a deed of release of all right and claim thereto from Sir Thomas de Camoys, Kt., to Simon de Meriet and John de Middleton, cleric, and the heirs of Simon, dated 18 February, 1346-7, in the presence of Sir John de Pulteneye, Sir Roger Hilary and Sir Ralph de Grey, Kts., Walter Turk, Roger de Depham, William Box, Simon de Turnham of London, John de Bratton,

John de Bradeston of Somerset, John de Dulton, and Henry Percehey and others. [Close Roll, 21 E. III. p. 1., m. 29.] These proceedings arose out of the litigation already detailed, respecting the manor and advowson of Bradeford between Sir Ralph de Camoys, Kt., the father of Sir Thomas, and Walter de Meriet, the uncle of Simon, in which Walter de Meriet was ultimately successful. [See note (38).]

In April, 1347, Simon de Meriet, by final accord, conveyed in fee to Thomas de Stonore and William de Killetre and the heirs of William, his manor of Bradeford (excepting a garden, 82 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 2 messuages, and a fourth of a messuage), and the advowson of the church of Bradeford, to hold to the use of himself, Margery his wife, and the heirs of Simon, subject nevertheless to the life estate therein of John de Middleton, cleric, (a former trustee of Walter de Meriet), who was present and a consenting party at the effecting of the accord, and who did fealty in court to the said Simon and Margery on the occasion. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 21 E. III. no. 5.]

In February, 1355-6, Simon de Meriet and Margery his wife, by final accord, conveyed in fee to Edward de Stonore, John Ruspyn parson of the church of Wydecombe (Withycombe by Dunster), and Geoffry de Weston, chaplain, the manor of Wykeby Taunton; 5 messuages, 2 mills, 750 acres of land, 70 acres of meadow, 158 acres of wood, and 20s. of rent in Lideyard St. Lawrence, Elleworth and Taunton; a third part of the manors of Wydecombe and Brompton Raufe; the manor of Bradeford (except 1 acre of land), and the advowson of the church of Bradeford, Somerset; and 1 messuage, 1 carucate of land, 8 acres of meadow, and 2s. of rent in Yartecombe, Devon, to hold to the use of Simon and Margery, and the heirs male of their bodies; with remainders, 1st, to the heirs male of the body of Simon; 2nd, to Thomas son of Sir John Tryvet, Kt. and Alice his wife, and the joint heirs of their bodies; 3rd, to the right heirs of the said Simon de Meriet. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 30 E. III. no. 531.]

In the octave of Hilary, 30 E. III. (13-20 January, 1356-7), Simon de Meryet and Margery his wife, conveyed in fee, by final accord, to John Ruspyn, parson of the church of Wydecombe (Withycombe), the manors of Combe-Flory and Heystercombe (except 2 acres of land in Heystercombe), and the advowson of the chantry of the altar of the blessed Mary in the church of Combe-Flory, to hold to the same uses and with the same remainders as next above. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 30 E. III. no. 11.]

By another final accord, passed at the same time as the one last recited, Simon de Meryet and Margery his wife, conveyed to the same feoffee the manor of Est Lambroke, to hold to the use of him, Simon, for life; with remainders, 1st, to the same Thomas Tryvet and Alice his wife, for their lives; 2nd, to the heirs male of the body of Simon de Meryet; 3rd, to the joint issue of Thomas and Alice Tryvet; and 4th, to the right heirs of Simon de Meryet. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 30 E. III. no. 12.] The peculiarity of the limitations in this entail and the variations from those of the preceding one, clearly indicate that Alice, the wife of Thomas Tryvet, was daughter, and at the time, only child of Simon and Margery de Meriet.

Within the following fortnight, viz., on 3 February, 1356-7, Simon de Meriet and Margery his wife, by final accord, conveyed in fee to Edmund de Stonore, John Ruspyn, parson of the church of Wydecombe, and Geoffry Weston, chaplain, a messuage, 1 carucate of land, 16 acres of meadow, 12 acres of wood, 10s. and 1lb. of pepper of rent in Capelond, and the advowson of the church of Capelond, to hold to the use of Simon de Meriet for life, with the same remainders as in the entail next above recited. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 31 E. III. no. 19.]

At the same time, Sir John Tryvet, chivaler, by a separate final accord, conveyed in fee to the same John Ruspyn, parson of the church of Wydecombe, 5 messuages, 9 carucates of land, 80 acres of meadow, 10 acres of wood, and 60s. of rent in

Puryton, Bauderyp, Oterhampton, Canyngton and Stoke-Cursy, to hold to the use of him, Sir John, for life; with remainders, 1st, to his son Thomas Tryvet and Alice his wife, and their joint issue male; and 2nd, to the right heirs of Sir John Tryvet. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 31 E. III. no. 27.] This accord was evidently passed by way of completing a settlement on the marriage of his son Thomas Tryvet with Alice.

In the octave of the Purification, 31 E. III. (2-8 Feb., 1356-7), Simon de Meriet, by final accord, conveyed in fee to Edmund de Stonore, John Ruspyn, parson of the church of Wydecombe, and Geoffry de Weston, chaplain, 1 messuage, 2 carucates of land, 12 acres of meadow, 20 acres of more, and 8s. of rent in Sulfurton (Silverton), Devon, to hold to the use of him, Simon, for life; with remainders, 1st, to Thomas, son of Sir John Tryvet, Kt., and Alice his wife, for their lives; 2nd, to the heirs-male of the body of Simon de Meriet; 3rd, to the joint issue of Thomas Tryvet and Alice his wife; and 4th, to the right heirs of him, Simon de Meriet. [Fin. Conc. Devon, 31 E. III. no. 280.]

In Hilary Term, 40 E. III. (1365-6), Sir John de Meriet, chivaler, on payment of the customary fine, obtained from the crown a licence to accord with Sir Simon Meriet, chivaler, and Margery, his wife, respecting the manors of Combe Flory, Wydecombe, Hestercombe, Ellesworth, Plassh, Hoccombe, Pylegh, Cerneheye, Lambrok, &c., with their appurtenances. [Lansd. MS. 306, fol. 150]. As this volume of parchment is considered to be the original book of the entries '*pro Licentia Concordandi*' for passing final agreements, a verbatim copy of this entry is appended. (Hilary 40 E. III.)

*“D^o Johē de Meryet chivaler p’ līcē conc’ cū Simone Meryet
chivaler and Margéria ux^e ejus de man’iis de Combe-flory
Wydecombe Hestercombe Ellesworth Plassh Hoccombe
Pylegh Cerneheye Lambrok &c. cū p’tin.”*

No trace of the consequent final agreement between them respecting these manors has been found among the Public Re-

cords; but if such an accord were passed, then Sir John de Meriet of Meriet claimed the reversion in these manors and lands by a specific conveyance, as well as by natural descent and inheritance, as illustrated in note (23).

By deed, dated at Combe-flory on Thursday next after the Epiphany, 40 E. III. (7 January, 1366-7), Sir Symon Meriet, Kt., executed a general release of actions to Robert Tilli and his heirs, to which is attached his seal in red wax, bearing on a heater-shaped shield, *Barry of Six and sable, over all a bend* The encircling legend is damaged. [Cotton Charters, xxvii. no. 102.]

In the octave of Hilary, 40 E. III. (13-20 January, 1366-7), Sir Simon Meryet, chivaler, and Margery his wife, by a final accord, for the consideration of 100 marks silver (£66. 13s. 4d.) gave, remitted, and quit-claimed for themselves and the heirs of Sir Simon to Nicholas de Iford, parson of the church of Olveston (co. Gloucester); John de Bradeford, vicar of the church of Ayshton by Bristol; Walter de Wodehouse, John Gannard, John Cudemerton and William Vynour, chaplains, and the heirs of the said William Vynour for ever, the manor of Assheton by Bristol, with its appurtenances. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 40 E. III. no. 16.] This may be considered as an alienation in fee of the manor of Assheton by Bristol, as it is not included either in the *Licentiæ Concordandi* of Hilary, 1365-6; or in the general conveyance, in 1373, by Sir John de Meriet of Meriet, of his estates in possession and reversion to Sir Edmund de Arundel and the other feoffees.

From the foregoing statements, and from the absence of any further notices of Sir Simon, or of his daughter Alice the wife of Sir Thomas Tryvet, we may conclude that Sir Simon de Meriet, the last of the name of the Hestercombe branch, died soon after January, 1366-7, without issue surviving; and that Alice died also without issue some time before that date, leaving her husband, Sir Thomas Tryvet, surviving.

The following Institutions and Admissions of the clergy to

Benefices were made on the presentation of Sir Simon de Meriet as patron :—

- 1346, vii. Id. December, John de Dichford, priest, to the church of Capelond (Capland).
- 1347, xi. Kal. December (21 November), at Wyvelescombe, John Dichford, priest, to the church of South Bradene, on the presentation of John, lord of the manor; and at the same time and place, John de Ileford, priest, to the church of Capelond, on the presentation of Symon de Meriet.
- 1348, viii. Id. February (6 Feb.), John Stille, priest, to the Chantry of the B. V. Mary in the church of Combe Flory.
- 1348-9, viii. Id. February (Feb. 6), Symon de Barton, chaplain, to the church of Capelond.
- 1348-9, iv. Kal. March (27 Feb.), John de Stoke, priest, to the church of Capelond.
- 1349, viii. Kal. December (24 Nov.), John de Horton, clerk, to the church of Wydecombe (Withycombe).
- 1350-1, ix. Kal. April (24 March), Tholomeus (Bartholomew) de la Ryxyn, priest, to the Chantry of the B. V. Mary in the church of Combe Flory, by exchange with John Hechene, priest, who was instituted to the church of Stokegummer.
- 1351, iv. Kal. September (29 August), at Banewell, William Assheleigh, chaplain, to the Chantry of the B. V. Mary in the church of Combe Flory, on the resignation of Tholomew de la Ryxyn.
- 1353, xiii. Kal. June (20 May), at Wyvelescombe, John Bryz, chaplain, to the free chapel of Est Lambrok.
- 1354-5, March 17, at Wyvelescombe, the Bishop granted license to Symon de Meriet to celebrate masses and other divine offices in his chapel of Hestercombe.

[Register of *Ralph de Salopia*, at Wells, as extracted in Harl. MS. 6965.]

(40). *Margery*, wife of Sir Simon de Meriet, Kt. It has been already shewn that in February, 1346-7, her husband settled a

life estate upon her of several manors and lands ; and that she held such an estate in the manors of Hestercombe, Combe Flory, Bradeford with the advowson of its church, Wydecombe, Elleworth, Brompton-Raufe, Wyke by Taunton, Capelond, and Assheton by Bristol ; and messuages and lands in Yartecombe, Bishop's Lideyard, Kingeston, Okcombe, Legh, Plassh, Sandlane, Cerneheye by Taunton, and Lymyngton. There is presumptive evidence that she survived Sir Simon, and had married before April, 1372, Thomas de Welyngton. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 47 E. III. no. 749.] See (page 152). She survived her second husband, and was living in Easter Term, 1390, when she was still holding the manors of Hestercombe and Combe Flory. [Fin. Conc. Somerset, 13 R. II. no. 14]. This is the latest notice that is found of her. There is proof that she had died before Michaelmas, 1393, as in that Term those manors, with several other manors and lands in Somerset and Devon, were conveyed by final accord to feoffees ; as regarded the manor and advowson of the chantry of Combe Flory, to hold to the use of John Hulle and Matilda his wife, for their lives, with remainder to Nicholas Hele and Alice his wife, and the heirs of Alice ; and as regarded the manor of Hestercombe, to grant the same to Richard Warre and his heirs. [Fin. Conc. Divers Counties, 17 R. II. no. 77.]

(41). *Thomas de Welyngton* married Margery before April, 1372. His elder brother, John de Welyngton, granted to him for life two messuages, and lands in Sandhurst and Ablynton (Ablode), co. Gloucester ; and the said Thomas de Welyngton died 4 August, 6 R. II. (1382), and Ralph de Welyngton, son of John his brother, was his nearest heir, and under age. [Inq. p.m., 7 R. II. no. 78.]

(42). *Alice*, daughter of Sir Simon de Meriet. Proofs have already been given in note (39) that Sir Simon de Meriet and Margery his wife, in February, 1355-6, and the following year, settled upon her and Thomas Tryvet her husband, and their

joint issue, the manors therein and above named. From the proceedings in 40 E. III. detailed in that note, there is ground for concluding that Alice was then dead, and that she left no surviving issue.

(43). *Sir Thomas Tryvet, Kt.*, son of Sir John Tryvet, Kt., by Joan sister of Sir Matthew Gournay, was born in 1350. [*Nicolas's Scrope and Grosvenor Roll*, ii. 414]. After the death of his wife Alice de Meriet, he married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of Sir Philip de Lymbury of Lymbury, co. Bedford, chivaler, who died at Constantinople, 6 July, 1367. [Inq. p.m. of Sir Philip, 41 E. III. (1 nrs) no. 40, and Inq. p.m. of Joan, wife of Sir John de Clynton, chivaler, mother of Elizabeth, wife of Sir Thomas Tryvet, chivaler, 11 R. II. no. 17]. Sir Thomas Tryvet, while riding in company with the King at Cambridge, was thrown from his horse, and died in consequence, 6 October, 1388. [*Scrope and Grosvenor Roll*, II. 419]. Thus, he did not live to enjoy the life estate entailed upon him in his first wife's inheritance contingent on his surviving her mother Margery. By inquisition, taken before Roger Manyngford, the escheator in Somerset, pursuant to writ dated 3 June, 12 R. II. (1389), it was found that he died on Tuesday next after Michaelmas day last past (6 October, 1388); and that Anne, aged 7 years and more; and Joan, aged 5 years and more, were his daughters and nearest heirs. [Inq. p.m., 12 R. II. no. 52]. Anne married Sir William Clinton, and had an only child who died without issue before 1420; and Joan married John Ward, Esq., and died also without issue before 1420. [*Scrope and Grosvenor Roll*, as above]. Elizabeth (Lymbury), the widow of Sir Thos. Tryvet, survived him and their children many years, and died without issue, 30 November, 1433. [Inq. p.m., 12 H. VI. no. 35.]

Many facts and dates are here brought together: the aim has been to sort them well into a fairly connected narrative, as thereon must depend much of their usefulness. They shew,

as will be seen on referring to the folding pedigree, that the junior branch of the family became entirely extinct on the death of Sir Simon of Hestercombe, who died without surviving issue between the years 1367 and 1372, when all his manors and lands, &c., subject to his widow's life estate therein, vested in Sir John de Meriet of Meriet and his assigns.

It will also be seen that on the death of Elizabeth, the infant daughter of Sir John de Meriet of Meriet, the representation of the senior branch passed by heirs female to the families of Bonville, and Stafford of Hoke, about the year 1395; and that this senior branch most probably became extinct in the male line on the death of Sir John de Meriet's brother of the half blood, Thomas Meriet of Stanlinch, of whom no further trace has been found after the year 1418.

B. W. G.

ERRATA:

P. 139, line 9 from foot, for *Louch*, read *Lough*.

P. 153, line 11 from foot, for *Comton*, read *Compton*.

P. 208, line 16 from foot, for *Edward*, read *Edmund*.

Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society. 1882-3.

PATRON:

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE VISCOUNT PORTMAN.

PRESIDENT:

C. I. ELTON, Esq.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

THE RT. HON. SIR THOMAS DYKE ACLAND, BART., M.P.

THE RT. HON. & RT. REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF BATH & WELLS

THE RIGHT HON. LORD CARLINGFORD

THE HON. AND RT. REV. BISHOP CLIFFORD

G. T. CLARKE, Esq.

THE RT. HON. THE EARL OF CORK AND ORRERY

F. H. DICKINSON, Esq. SIR ARTHUR H. ELTON, BART.

E. A. FREEMAN, Esq., D.C.L.

RALPH NEVILLE GRENVILLE, Esq.

SIR A. A. HOOD, BART.

THOMAS TUTTON KNYFTON, Esq. WM. LONG, Esq.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF LOVELACE

ARTHUR MALET, Esq.

JEROM MURCH, Esq.

R. H. PAGET, Esq., M.P.

COL. WM. PINNEY.

THE REV. FITZHARDINGE BERKELEY PORTMAN

W. A. SANFORD, Esq.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY, BART.

W. E. SURTEES, Esq., D.C.L.

CHARLES NOEL WELMAN, Esq.

TRUSTEES:

HENRY JEFFRIES BADCOCK, Esq.

JOHN BATTEN, Esq.

GEORGE FOWNES LUTTRELL, Esq.

HENRY GORGES MOYSEY, Esq.

WILLIAM AYSHFORD SANFORD, Esq.

WILLIAM EDWARD SURTEES, Esq.

SIR ALEXANDER A. HOOD, BART.

WILLIAM STEPHEN GORE LANGTON, Esq.

EDWARD J. STANLEY, Esq., M.P.

TREASURERS :

Henry Badcock and Henry Jeffries Badcock,
Taunton.

GENERAL SECRETARIES :

O. W. Malet, C. J. Turner, and E. Green.

DISTRICT OR LOCAL SECRETARIES :

A. G. Barham, <i>Bridgwater</i>	W. M. Kelly, M.D., <i>Taunton</i>
John Batten, <i>Yeovil</i>	F. Mitchell, <i>Chard</i>
E. Chisholm-Batten, <i>Thorn Falcon</i>	W. Müller, <i>Bruton</i>
Rev. J. A. Bennett, <i>South Cadbury</i>	Hugh Norris, <i>South Petherton</i>
J. G. L. Bulleid, <i>Glastonbury</i>	J. H. Pring, M.D., <i>Taunton</i>
Rev. H. Clutterbuck, <i>Buckland</i> <i>Dinham</i>	Rev. H. M. Scarth, <i>Wrington</i>
Rev. J. Coleman, <i>Allerton</i>	T. Serel, <i>Wells</i>
Rev. J. J. Coleman, <i>Dulverton</i>	W. B. Sparks, <i>Crewkerne</i>
A. Dickinson, <i>Clevedon</i>	Rev. H. G. Tomkins, <i>Weston-super-</i> <i>Mare</i>
H. Dyne, <i>Bruton</i>	G. Walters, <i>Frome</i>
Ven. Archdeacon Fitzgerald, <i>South Brent</i>	Rev. W. P. Williams, <i>Bishops Hull</i>
C. H. Fox, <i>Wellington</i>	W. L. Winterbotham, <i>Bridgwater</i>
W. Hancock, <i>Wiveliscombe</i>	Rev. H. H. Winwood, <i>Bath</i>
Rev. W. Hunt, <i>Congresbury</i>	F. H. Woodforde, M.D., <i>Castle Cary</i>

COMMITTEE :

C. E. Lance	H. Alford
Wilfred Marshall	Major Barrett
A. Maynard	E. D. Bourdillon
T. Meyler	Rev. I. S. Gale
E. Sloper	Rev. C. P. Parish
Rev. J. W. Ward	J. H. B. Pinchard

The President, Vice-Presidents, Trustees, Treasurers, and Secretaries are *ex-officio* Members of the Committee.

ARCHITECT :

B. E. Ferrey, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

ASSIST. SEC. and CURATOR :

Wm. Bidgood, *Taunton Castle.*

Trustees of the Pigott Collection of Drawings, Somerset.

The Lord Lieutenant of the County.

The Lord Bishop of the Diocese.

The Members of Parliament for the County.

The Chairman of Quarter Sessions.

The Clerk of the Peace for the County.

James Hurly Pring, Esq, M.D.

Edward Frederic Smyth-Pigott, Esq.

The Rev. George Octavius Smyth-Pigott.

} *For Life.*

Honorary and Corresponding Members.

Acland, W. H., Esq., M.D., *Regius Professor of Medicine*, Oxford.

Babington, C. C., Esq., F.R.S., F.S.A., *Professor of Botany*, 5, Brookside, Cambridge.

Bond, E. A., Esq., LL.D., *Principal Librarian*, British Museum.

Charlton, Dr., *Sec. Antiquarian Society*, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Dawkins, Professor W. Boyd, F.R.S., F.G.S., &c., Owens College, Manchester.

Dimock, Rev. J. F., Barnborough, Doncaster.

Godwin, George, Esq., F.R.S., F.S.A., Brompton.

Lloyd, Dr., *Sec. Archæological and Natural History Society*, Warwick.

Owen, Professor, C.B., F.R.S., &c., *Head of Natural History Department*, British Museum.

Parker, J. H., Esq., C.B., Oxford.

Ramsay, A. C., Esq., F.R.S., *Professor of Geology*, School of Mines, London.

Smith, C. Roach, Esq., F.S.A., Strood, Rochester.

Stubbs, Rev. Canon, M.A., *Regius Professor of Modern History*, Oxford.

Wilson, Daniel, Esq., LL.D., *Professor of English Language*, Toronto, Canada.

Societies in Correspondence.

- The Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*
The British Archæological Association
The Society of Antiquaries of London
The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
The Royal Irish Academy
The Royal Historical and Archæological Association of Ireland
The Cambrian Archæological Society
The Associated Architectural Societies of Northampton, &c., &c.
The Sussex Archæological Society
The Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History
The Surrey Archæological Society
The Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire
The Chester Local Archæological Society
The Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Society
The London and Middlesex Archæological Society
The Plymouth Institution and Devon and Cornwall Nat. His. Soc.
The Kent Archæological Society
The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society
The Powys Land Club
The Derbyshire Archæological and Natural History Society
The Shropshire Archæological and Natural History Society
The Berkshire Archæological and Architectural Society
The Hertfordshire Natural History Society
The Bath Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club
The Geologists' Association
The Royal Dublin Society
The Bristol Naturalists' Society
The Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool
The Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester
The Barrow Naturalists' Field Club
The Epping Forest Field Club
Imperial and Royal Geographical Society of Vienna
The Royal Norwegian University, Christiana
Societie Vaudoise des Sciences Naturelles, Lausanne
University College, Toronto, Canada
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, U.S.
The Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts, U.S.
Society for the Promotion of Natural Sciences, Vienna

Rules.

THIS Society shall be denominated "THE SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY;" and its object shall be the cultivation of, and collecting information on, Archæology and Natural History in their various branches, but more particularly in connection with the County of Somerset, and the establishment of a Museum and Library.

II.—The Officers of the Society shall consist of a Patron and Trustees, elected for life; a President; Vice-Presidents; General and District, or Local Secretaries; and a Treasurer, elected at each Anniversary Meeting; with a Committee of twelve, six of whom shall go out annually by rotation, but may be re-elected. No person shall be elected on the Committee until he shall have been six months a Member of the Society.

III.—Anniversary General Meetings shall be held for the purpose of electing the Officers, of receiving the Report of the Committee for the past year, and of transacting all other necessary business, at such time and place as the Committee shall appoint, of which Meetings three weeks' notice shall be given to the Members.

IV.—There shall also be a General Meeting, fixed by the Committee, for the purpose of receiving Reports, reading Papers, and transacting business. All Members shall have the privilege of introducing one friend to the Anniversary and General Meetings.

V.—The Committee is empowered to call special Meetings of the Society upon receiving a requisition signed by ten Members. Three weeks' notice of such special Meetings and its object shall be given to each Member.

VI.—The affairs of the Society shall be directed by the Committee (of which the Officers of the Society will be *ex-officio* Members), which shall hold monthly Meetings for receiving Reports from the Secretaries and sub-Committees, and for transacting other necessary business; three of the Committee shall be a quorum. Members may attend the Monthly Committee Meetings after the Official business has been transacted.

VII.—The Chairman, at Meetings of the Society, shall have a casting vote in addition to his vote as a Member.

VIII.—One (at least) of the Secretaries shall attend each Meeting, and shall keep a record of its proceedings. The property of the Society shall be held in trust for the Members by twelve Trustees, who shall be chosen from the Members at any General Meeting. All Manuscripts and Communications and the other property of the Society shall be under the charge of the Secretaries.

IX.—Candidates for admission as Members shall be proposed by two Members at any of the General or Committee Meetings, and the election shall be determined by ballot at the next Committee or General Meeting; three-fourths of the Members present balloting shall elect. The Rules of the Society shall be subscribed by every person becoming a Member.

X.—Ladies shall be eligible as Members of the Society without ballot, being proposed by two Members and approved by the majority of the Meeting.

XI.—Each Member shall pay Ten Shillings and Sixpence on admission to the Society, and Ten Shillings and Sixpence as an annual subscription, which shall become due on the first of January in each year, and shall be paid in advance.

XII.—Donors of Ten Guineas or upwards shall be Members for life.

XIII.—At General Meetings of the Society the Committee may recommend persons to be ballotted for as Honorary or Corresponding Members.

XIV.—When any office shall become vacant or any new appointment shall be requisite, the Committee shall have power to fill up the same; such appointments shall remain in force only till the next General Meeting, when they shall be either confirmed or annulled.

XV.—The Treasurer shall receive all Subscriptions and Donations made to the Society, and shall pay all accounts passed by the Committee; he shall keep a book of receipts and payments which he shall produce whenever the Committee shall require it; the accounts shall be audited previously to the Anniversary Meeting by two Members of the Committee chosen for that purpose, and an abstract of them shall be read at the Meeting.

XVI.—No change shall be made in the laws of the Society except at a General or Special Meeting, at which twelve Members at least shall be present. Of the proposed change a month's notice shall be given to the Secretaries, who shall communicate the same to each Member three weeks before the Meeting.

XVII.—Papers read at Meetings of the Society shall (with the author's consent, and subject to the discretion of the Committee), be published in the *Proceedings* of the Society.

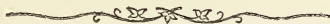
XVIII.—No religious or political discussions shall be permitted at Meetings of the Society.

XIX.—Any person contributing books or specimens to the Museum shall be at liberty to resume possession of them in the event of a dissolution of the Society. Persons shall also have liberty to deposit books or specimens for a specific time only.

XX.—In case of dissolution, the real property of the Society in Taunton shall be held by the Trustees for the advancement of Literature, Science, and Art, in the town of Taunton and the county of Somerset.

August, 1883.

* * *It is requested that contributions to the Museum or Library be sent to the Curator, at Taunton Castle.*



Members.

1883.

Those marked * are Life Members.

- Abraham, Geo. *Aberdare*
Acland, C. T. D., M.P. *Holnicote, Minehead*
Acland, The Right Hon. Sir T. D., Bart., M.P. *Killerton Park, Devon*
Adair, Col. A. W. *Heatherton Park, Wellington*
5 Adair, Rev. H. J. *Bradford*
Adderley, Capt., *Lyngford, Taunton*
Adlam, William, *Manor House, Chew Magna, Bristol*
Aldworth, Major Robert, *West Coker*
Alford, H. *Taunton*
10 Altham, Major, *Timbercombe, Aisholt, Bridgwater*
Ashworth-Hallett, Mrs. L. S. *Claverton Lodge, Bathwick Hill, Bath*
* Atherstone, Miss, *Burnham*
- Badcock, Daniel, *Treborough Lodge, Williton*
Badcock, H. *Wheatleigh Lodge, Taunton*
15 Badcock, H. J. *Taunton*
Bagehot, Edward, *Langport*
Baker, John, *Ilminster*
Baker, E. E. *Weston-super-Mare*
Barker, E. V. P. *Glastonbury*
20 Barnard, Rev. Preb. *Yatton*
Barnicott, Reginald, *Taunton*
Barham, A. G. *Bridgwater*
Barnwell, Rev. E. L. *Melksham House, Melksham*
Barrett, Jonathan, *Taunton*
25 Barrett, Major, *Moreden House, North Curry*
Bartlett, Rev. R. Leach, *Thurloxton*
Bartrum, J. S. 13, *Gay-street, Bath*
Bath, E. *Glastonbury*
Bathurst, A. 2, *New-square, Lincoln's Inn, London*
30 Batten, John, *Aldon, Yeovil*
* Beddoe, J., M.D., F.R.S. *Clifton*

- Bennett, H. E. *Sparkford, Ilchester*
 Bennett, Rev. J. A. *South Cadbury, Castle Cary*
 Bennett, T. O. *Bruton*
 35 Bennett, W. E. *Langport*
 Bergman, J. G. 6, *Powderham-terrace, Teignmouth*
 Bernard, Rev. Canon, *Wells*
 Besley, Mrs. *Sidbrook, Taunton*
 Bewes, Rev. T. A. *Beaumont, Plymouth*
 40 Birkett, Rev. Thos. 5, *Park-place, Weston-super-Mare*
 Birks, Rev. J. *Taunton*
 Bisset, M. Fenwick, M.P., *Bagborough*
 Blacker, Rev. Beaver H., 26, *Meridian Place, Clifton*
 Blake, Rice, *Claremont, Taunton*
 45 Blake, W. *Bridge House, South Petherton*
 Blathwayt, Rev. W. T. *Dyrham, Chippenham*
 Boles, Rev. J. T. *Crowcombe*
 Bond, Thos. *Tyneham, Wareham*
 Bourdillon, E. D. *Poundisford Park, Taunton*
 50 Bouverie, H. H. P. *Brymore House, Bridgwater*
 Bouverie, P. P. " "
 Bownes, Rev. Jas., *Creech St. Michael*
 Braikenridge, W. Jerdone, *Clevedon*
 Bramble, James Roger, *Cleeve House, Yatton*
 55 Bridport, Viscount, *Cricket Lodge, Chard*
 Bridges, H. W. *Taunton*
 Brittan, Mrs. A. *Failand Hill, Ashton, Bristol*
 Broderip, Edmund, *Cossington Manor, Bridgwater*
 Broome, C. E. *Elmhurst, Batheaston*
 60 Brown, Rev. Frederick, *Fern Bank, Beckenham, Kent*
 Brown, John, *Wadeford, Chard*
 Brown, T. Loader, *Chardleigh Green, Chard*
 Buckle, Rev. G. *Weston-super-Mare*
 Bulleid, J. G. L. *Glastonbury*
 65 Buller, Rev. W. E. *Chard*
 Bullock, George, *North Coker, Yeovil*
 Bullock, G. Troyte, *North Coker House, Yeovil*
 Burrows, Rev. L. F. *Limington, Ilchester*
 Burt, G. R. *Ilminster*
 70 Bush, John, 9, *Pembroke-road, Clifton, Bristol*
 Butt, Capt., J. T. H. *Elmhurst, Street*
 Buttanshaw, Rev. J. 22, *St. James's-square, Bath*

 Caillard, C. F. D. *Wingfield House, Trowbridge*
 Canning, G. T. *Chard*
 75 Caparn, Rev. W. B. *Taunton*

- Cartwright, Rev. A. R. *Butcombe*
 Cartwright, Rev. H. A. *Whitestaunton*
 Castlehow, Rev. William, *North Cadbury*
 Carlingford, Right Hon. Lord, *The Priory, Chewton Mendip, Bath*
 80 Chaffey, Mrs. *Keinton, Somerton*
 Chaffey-Chaffey, Robt. *East Stoke*
 Chaffey, Richd. *Chard*
 Chapman, Arthur, *Taunton*
 Chapman, Wm. *Taunton*
 85 Cheetham, F. H. *Tetton, Kingston, Taunton*
 Chisholm-Batten, E. *Lincoln's Inn, London, and Thorn Falcon*
 Church, Rev. C. M. *Wells*
 Clark, G. T. *Dowlais House, Merthyr Tydvil*
 Clark, W. S. *Street*
 90 Clarke, A. A. *Wells*
 Clarke, T. E. *Minehead*
 Clerk, E. H. *Westholme House, Pilton, Shepton Mallet*
 Clifford, The Hon. and Right Rev. Bishop, *Bishop's House, Park-place, Clifton, Bristol*
 Clutterbuck, Rev. Henry, *Buckland Dinham, Frome*
 95 Colby, Rev. R. *Almsford, Castle Cary*
 Coleman, Rev. James, *Allerton, Axbridge*
 Coleman, Rev. J. J. *Dulverton*
 Coles, Mrs. *Shepton Beauchamp*
 Colfox, Thos. *Rax, Bridport*
 100 Colfox, Wm.
 Compton, Theodore, *Winscombe, Weston-super-Mare*
 Cork and Orrery, Earl of, *Marston, Frome*
 Corner, H. *Taunton*
 Cornish, Rev. Chas. E. *South Petherton*
 105 Cornish, C. H. *Taunton*
 Cornish, F. W. *Eton College*
 Cornwall, John, *Manor House, Meare*
 Cossham, Handel, *Weston Park, Bath*
 Crothers, Wallace B. *Chew Magna*
 110 Cox, H. *Williton*
 Daniel, G. A. *Secretary, Literary Institute, Frome*
 Daniel, Rev. H. A. *Manor House, Stockland Bristol, Bridgwater*
 Daniel, Rev. W. E. *Frome*
 Dare, Chas. Wm. *Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, London*
 115 Daubeney, W. A. *Cote, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol*

- Daubeny, W. *Stratton House, Park Lane, Bath*
 Davies, J. Trevor, *The Abbey, Sherborne*
 Davidson, Jas. B. *Sector, Axminster*
 Davis, Maurice, *Langport*
 120 Davis, Major C. E. 55, *Pulteney-street, Bath*
 Denham, Geo. *Taunton*
 Dickinson, Arthur, *Clevedon*
 Dickinson, F. H. *Kingweston House*
 Dickinson, E. H. *Shepton Mallet*
 125 Dobree, S. *The Priory, Wellington*
 Dobson, Mrs. *Oakwood, Bathwick-hill, Bath*
 Doggett, E. *Greenfield, 31, Richmond-terrace, Clifton*
 Douglas, Gen. Sir Percy, Bart., *Heatherton Park, Wellington*
 Duckworth, Russell, *The Cloisters, near Bath*
 130 Dunn, William, *Frome*
 Dupuis, Rev. T. C. *Burnham*
 Du Sautoy, Rev. W. *Taunton*
 Dyne, Henry, *Bruton*
- Easton, Richard, *Taunton*
 135 Eden, Mrs. *The Grange, Kingston*
 Edwards, Chas. *The Grove, Wrington*
 Edwards, John, *Mountlands, Taunton*
 Ellis, Rev. J. H. *Stourton*
 Elton, Sir Arthur H., Bart. *Clevedon Court*
 140 Elton, C. I. *Manor House, Whitestaunton*
 Elton, E. H. *Clevedon*
 Elwes, Rev. E. L. *Over Stowey*
 Elworthy, F. T. *Foxdown, Wellington*
 Elworthy, S. *Taunton*
 145 Errington, The Most Rev. Archbishop, *Prior Park, Bath*
 Esdaile, C. E. J. *Cothelstone*
 Esdaile, Geo. *Rivington View, Stretford, Manchester*
 Esdaile, Rev. W. *Sandford Orcas, Sherborne*
 Evans, J., F.R.S. *Nash Mills, Hemel Hempstead*
- 150 Farmer, Dr. Fredk. *Bridgwater*
 Ferrey, B. E., 15, *Spring Gardens, London*
 Filleul, Rev. P. V. M. *Biddisham Rectory, Axbridge*
 Fisher, J. M. *Taunton*
 Fitzgerald, Ven. Archdeacon, *South Brent*
 155 Fitz-Gerald, J. P. *The Avenue, Wellington*
 Forbes, Rev. E. *Elmhurst, Clevedon*
 Ford, J. *Wraxall Court, Nailsea*

- Foster, E. A., 24, *Wyndham Terrace, Salisbury*
 Fowler, Rev. C. A. *Walton-in-Gordano*
- 160 Fox, C. H. *Wellington*
 Fox, C. H., M.D. *Brislington*
 Fox, E. F., 72, *Pembroke-road, Clifton*
 Fox, Sylvanus, *Linden, Wellington*
 Foxcroft, E. D. T. *Widcombe House, Bath*
- 165 Fowler, Wm. H. *Taunton*
 Franklin, H. *Taunton*
 Freeman, E. A., D.C.L. *Somerleaze, Wells*
 Fry, The Rt. Hon. Sir Edw., Lord Justice of Appeal,
Failand House, Long Ashton, Bristol
- Gale, Rev. I. S. *Kingston*
- 170 Gatehouse, Rev. Thos. J. *North Cheriton, Wincanton*
 George, Rev. Philip Edward, 11, *Pulteney-street, Bath*
 George, Wm. 26, *Park-street, Bristol*
 Gibney, Capt. R. D. *Winsley House, Bradford-on-Avon*
 Gibson, Rev. Prebendary, *Theological College, Wells*
- 175 Giles, Rev. J. A., D.C.L. *Sutton, Surrey*
 Gillett, A. *Street*
 Gillo, R. *Bridgwater*
 Glyn, Sir R. G., Bart. *Leweston, Sherborne*
 Godson, Rev. E. *Borough Bridge*
- 180 Goodden, Rev. C. C. *Montacute, Ilminster*
 Goodford, Rev. C. O., D.D., Provost, *Eton*
 Gooding, Miss Ann, *Kings-square, Bridgwater*
 Govett, Clement, *Carlton Terrace, Taunton*
 Grafton, Rev. A. W. *Castle Cary*
- 185 Grenville, Ralph Neville, *Butleigh, Glastonbury*
 Green, E. *Junior Athenæum Club, London*
 *Greenfield, B. W. 4, *Cranbury Terrace, Southampton*
 Greenway, Maurice, *Haines Hill, Taunton*
 Grote, Arthur, F.G.S., F.L.S. *Athenæum Club, and 40,*
Ovington Square, London, S.W.
- 190 Goodland, Thos. *Taunton*
 Guise, Sir W. V., Bart. *Elmore Court, Gloucester*
- Haddon, Chas. *Taunton*
 Hall, Henry, 19, *Doughty-street, Mecklenburgh square, London*
 Halliday, Mrs. *Glenthorn, Lynton, Barnstaple*
- 195 Hammett, A. *Taunton*
 Hammond, J. F. *Taunton*
 Hancock, William, *Wiveliscombe*
 Hardman, Rev. J. W., LL.D. *Cadbury, Congresbury*

- Harford, Wm. H. *Barley Wood, Wrington*
- 200 Harvey, John, jun. *Denmark-street, Clifton*
- Havilland, General John de, *Havilland Hall, Taunton*
- Hawkins, Thos., jun. *Taunton*
- Heathcote, Rev. S. *Williton*
- Heaven, Henry, 9, *Bridge-street, Blackfriars, London, E.C.*
- 205 Hellard, W. B. *Taunton*
- Helyar, Major, *Poundisford Lodge, Taunton*
- Helyar, H. A. *Coker Court, Yeovil*
- Hemsley, J. N. *Wells*
- Henley, Col. C. H. *Leigh House, Chard*
- 210 Herringham, Rev. W. W. *Old Cleeve*
- Hervey, The Right Rev. Lord Arthur, Bishop of Bath and Wells, *Palace, Wells*
- Hervey, Rev. S. H. A. *Wedmore*
- Hewett, Rev. J. P. *Norton Fitzwarren*
- Hey, Rev. C. E. *South Petherton*
- 215 Hill, Chas. *Clevedon Hall, Clevedon*
- Hill, Lieut.-Col. C.B. *Rookwood, Llandaff, and Hazel Munor, Compton Martin*
- Hill, Rev. R. *Timsbury, Bath*
- Hill, Miss, *Asby Lodge, Carlton-road, Putney, London*
- Hill, William John, *Langport*
- 220 Hillman, Chas. *Congresbury*
- Hippisley, Edwin, *Wells*
- Hobhouse, Rt. Rev. Bishop, *Batcombe, Bath*
- Hobhouse, H. *Hadspen House, Castle Cary*
- Hodges, Miss Caroline, *Haines-hill, Taunton*
- 225 Hood, Sir A. A., Bart., *St. Audries*
- Hooper, James, *Thorne, Yeovil*
- Horner, J. F. *Fortescue, Mells*
- Hoskins, H. W. *North Perrott Manor, Crewkerne*
- Hoskins, Col. *South Petherton*
- 230 Howes, Rev. J. G. *Exford*
- Hunt, Mrs. Ezra, 18, *Belmont, Bath*
- Hunt, Rev. W. 22, *Norfolk Terrace, Bayswater, London, W.*
- Hunt, Rev. W. *Weston-super-Mare*
- Hutchings, H. *Sandford Orcas, Sherborne*
- 235 Hylton, Lord, *Ammerdown Park, Radstock, Bath*

Impey, Miss E. C. *Street*

Inman, H. B. *Pine House, Batheaston, Bath*

Jacobs, M. *Taunton*

James, Sir Henry, M.P., 2, *New-court, Temple, London*

- 240 Jefferies, C. E. *Redcliffe-street, Bristol*
 Jefferies, J. E. *Yeo Bank, Congresbury*
 Johnson, Admiral, *Haines-hill, Taunton*
 Johnston, Jno. 9, *Park-street, Bath*
 Jones, J. E. *North Cave, Borough, East Yorks*
 245 Jones, W. A. *Kenwith Lodge, Redland, Bristol*
 Jose, Rev. S. P. *Churchill*
 Jose, Mrs. ,,

 Kelly, W. M., M.D. *Taunton*
 Kerslake, Thos. 14, *West Park, Bristol*
 250 Kettlewell, Wm. *Harptree Court, East Harptree*
 Kinglake, J. H., M.D. *Taunton*
 Kinglake, R. A. *Taunton*
 Kinglake, Rev. F. C. *West Monkton*
 Knight, L. T. *Beaconsfield, Bath*
 255 Knowles, C. *Bridgwater*
 Knyfton, T. T. *Uphill*

 Lamport, Chas. *Bindon House, Wellington*
 Lance, Chas. E. *Stoke Court, Taunton*
 Lance, Rev. J. E. *Buckland St. Mary*
 260 Lance, Rev. W. H. *Thurlbeer*
 Lang, Robert, *Mancombe, Henbury, Bristol*
 Langton, W. Stephen Gore, M.P., *Newton House, Bristol*
 Leigh, Henry, 3, *Plowden-buildings, Temple, London*
 Lewis, Wm., 12, *Northgate-street, Bath*
 265 Liddon, Wm. *Taunton*
 Long, W. *West Hay, Wrington, Bristol*
 Long, Capt. *Congresbury* ,,
 Lovelace, The Earl of, *Ashley Combe, Porlock*
 Luttrell, G. F. *Dunster Castle*
 270 Lysaght, John, *Springfort, Stoke Bishop, Bristol*
 Lyte, H. Maxwell, 18, *Albermarle-street, London*

 Maggs, T. C. *Yeovil*
 Major, Charles, *Westfield House, Bridgwater*
 Major, H. J. *East Croft, Bridgwater*
 275 Malet, Arthur, 45, *Linden Gardens, Notting Hill, W.*
 Malet, Octavius W. 14, *Manson-place, South Kensington*
 Manning, R. Jas. *High-street, Wells*
 Manley, H. F. *Upcott, Bishops Hull*
 Mapleton, Rev. H. M. *Badgworth, Weston-super-Mare*
 280 Marriott-Dodington, T. *Horsington*
 Marsden, Rev. John, *Taunton*

- Marshall, G. W., LL.D., 60, *Onslow Gardens, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.*
 Marshall, J. *Belmont, Taunton*
 Marshall, Wilfred Geo. *Staplegrove, Taunton*
 285 Marwood, J. B., 3, *Grove-terrace, Hanwell, Middlesex*
 Master, Rev. G. S. *West Deane, Wilts*
 Mathew, Rev. M. A. *Stone Hall, Woolf's Castle, Pembrokeshire*
 May, Frederick, *Alcombe, Dunster*
 Maynard, Alfred, *Taunton*
 290 Maynard, Walter, „
 Meade-King, Mrs. Charles, *Hope House, Taunton*
 Meade-King, R. K. *Walford, Taunton*
 Meade-King, Walter, 11, *Baring Crescent, Heavitree, Exeter*
 Medley, Rev. J. B. *Lullington, Frome*
 295 Meyler, T. *Taunton*
 Milsom, Chas., 69, *Pulteney-street, Bath*
 Mitchell, F. *Chard*
 Mitchell, G. W. *Taunton*
 Monday, A. J. „
 300 Moore, G. G.
 Moore, J. F. *West Coker, Yeovil*
 Moor, Rev. R. W. *Welton Lodge, Prior Park-road, Bath*
 Moorsom, Warren, *Clevedon*
 Morgan, Sir Walter, *Naish House, Nailsea*
 305 Morgan, John, *Langport*
 Morland, John, *Glastonbury*
 Morris, Col. Ussher L., *Hillbrook, Trull*
 Moss, Rev. J. J. *East Lydford*
 Moysey, H. G. *Bathealton Court, Wiveliscombe*
 310 Müller, W. *Bruton*
 Murch, Jerom, *Cranwells, Bath*
 Murray, Rev. R. P. *Wells*
 Murray-Anderdon, H. E. *Henlade, Taunton*
 Naish, W. B. *Ston Easton*
 315 Neale, W. *Kingsdon, Somerton*
 Nelson, Major W. F. 6, *Paragon, Clifton*
 Newell, Rev. F. C. *Chiselborough*
 Newman, Rev. W. A. *Hatch Beauchamp*
 Newnham, Capt. N. J. *Blagdon Court, Bristol*
 320 Newton, F. W. *Barton Grange, Taunton*
 Nicholetts, J. T. *Brent Knoll, Highbridge*
 Norman, C. E. *Taunton*
 Norris, Hugh, *South Petherton*
 Nutt, Rev. C. H. *East Harptree, Bristol*

- 325 O'Connor, Rev. H. K. *Locking, Weston-super-Mare*
 Odgers, Rev. J. E. *Horton, Cavendish Road, Bowdon, near Manchester*
 Odgers, Rev. J. Collins, *Kingston Lodge, Leigh Woods, Bristol*
 O'Donoghue, Henry O'Brien, *Long Ashton*
 Ommanney, Rev. G. D. W. *Draycot, Weston-super-Mare*
- 330 Paget, R. H., M.P. *Cranmore Hall, Shepton Mallet*
 Paine, Jas. *Springfield, West Monkton*
 Palairet, Rev. R. *Norton St. Philip, Bath*
 Palmer, William, *Tannton*
 Parfitt, Right Rev. Dr. *Midford, Bath*
- 335 Parish, Rev. C. S. P. *Ashfield, Taunton*
 Parr, Major, T. R. *Clifton Club*
 Parsons, F. C. J. *Bridgwater*
 Parsons, H. F., M.D. 13, *Whitworth-road, South Norwood, London, S.E.*
 Parsons, James, *The Lynch, Somerton*
- 340 Patton, Lieut.-Col. Bethune, *Stoke House, Taunton*
 Paul, R. W., *St. Leonards, The Shrubbery, Weston-super-Mare*
 Paul, W. Bond, *Langport*
 Payne, E. T., 3, *Sydney Place, Bath*
 Pearse, Rev. Beauchamp K. W. *The Old Rectory, Ascott, Staines*
- 345 Penny, T. *Taunton*
 Perceval, Capt. *Severn House, Henbury, Bristol*
 Perfect, Rev. H. T. *Stanton Drew*
 Philp, Capt. *Pendoggett, Timsbury, Bath*
 Philpott, Rev. R. S. *Chewton Mendip*
- 350 Pinchard, W. P. *Taunton*
 Pinchard, J. H. B. „
 Plumptre, Very Rev. E. H., D.D., Dean of Wells, *The Deanery, Wells*
 Pinney, Col. Wm. *Somerton Erleigh*
 Pitt-Rivers, Lieut.-Gen., F.R.S., F.S.A. *Rushmore, Salisbury*
- 355 Plowman, T. *North Curry*
 Poole, J. R. *Cannington*
 Poole, H. R. *South Petherton*
 Pooley, C. *Northumberland Lodge, Tivoli, Cheltenham*
 Porch, J. A. *Edgarley House, Glastonbury*
- 360* Portman, Viscount, *Bryanstone House, Dorset*
 Portman, Rev. F. B. *Staple Fitzpaine*
 Portman, The Hon. W. H. B. *Durweston, Blandford, Dorset*
 Prankerd, John, *Langport*
 Prankerd, P. D. *The Knoll, Sneyd Park, Bristol*

- 365 Pratten, Chas. *Stone Allerton, Weston-super-Mare*
 Pring, J. H., M.D. *Taunton*
 Pring, Daniel J. „
 Prior, R. C. A., M.D. *Halse*
 Prole, Rev. A. B. *Bathealton*
- 370* Ramsden, Sir John Wm., Bart., 6, *Upper Brook-street, London, and Byram, Yorkshire*
 Redfern, Rev. W. T. *Taunton*
 Reed, Rev. W. *Fullands, „*
 Reeves, A.
 Risley, S. Norris, *Ashcott House, Ashcott, Bridgwater*
- 375 Rocke, Mrs. *Chalice Hill, Glastonbury*
 Rogers, T. E. *Yarlington House, Wincanton*
 Rogers, W. H. H. *Colyton, Devon*
 Rogers, Rev. Toward, *Odcombe, Yeovil*
 Rose, Rev. W. F. *Worle, Weston-super-Mare*
- 380 Rossiter, G. F., M.B. *Weston-super-Mare*
 Rowe, Rev. J. *Long Load, Langport*
 Ruegg, Lewis H. *Sherborne, Dorset*
 Rutter, John, *Ilminster*
- Sainsbury, Capt. *Bathford, Bath*
- 385 Salmon, Rev. E. A. *Martock*
 Samson, H. C. *Taunton*
 Samuelson, H. B., M.P. *Hazelgrove, Ilchester*
 Sandford, G. W. *Springfield Villa, Landsdown, Bath*
 Sanford, W. A. *Nynehead Court, Wellington*
- 390 Scarth, Rev. H. M. *Wrington, Bristol*
 Scott, Rev. J. P. *Wey House, near Taunton*
 Sears, R. H. *Priory House, Taunton*
 Sedding, J. D. 18, *Charlotte-street, Bedford-square, London*
 Seller, Rev. H. C. *Trull*
- 395 Serel, Thomas, *Wells*
 Seymour, Alfred, *Knoyle, Wilts*
 Sheldon, Thomas, *Clevedon*
 Shelley, Miss M. A. 12, *Macaulay Buildings, Bath*
 Shepherd, J. W. *Ilminster*
- 400 Shepherd, Rev. Fredk. *Stoke-sub-Hamdon*
 Shum, F. *Belcombe House, Bradford-on-Avon, Bath*
 Simmons, C. J. *Lower Langford, Bristol*
 Skrine, H. D. *Claverton Manor, Bath*
 Slade, Wyndham, *Montys Court, Taunton*
- 405 Sloper, E. *Taunton*
 Sly, E. B. *Glastonbury*
 Smith, Lady, *Somerton*

- Smith, Cecil, *Bishops Lydeard*
 Smith, Clement, *Crescent, Taunton*
 410 Smith, Rev. Frederick J. "
 Smith, Rev. Gilbert E. *Barton St. David*
 Smith, Wm., M.D. *Weyhill, Andover*
 Somers, B. E. *Mendip Lodge, Langford, Bristol*
 Somerville, A. F. *Dinder, Wells*
 415 Sotheby, Rev. T. H. *Langford Budville*
 Sparks, William, *Crewkerne*
 Sparks, W. B. "
 Speke, W. *Jordans, near Ilminster*
 Spencer, J. H. *Corfe, Taunton*
 420 Spicer, Northcote W. *Chard*
 Spiller, H. *Taunton*
 Spiller, Miss, *Sunny Bank, Bridgwater*
 Stanley, E. J., M.P., *Quantock Lodge, Bridgwater*
 Stanton, Rev. J. J. *North Barrow, Castle Cary.*
 425 St. Aubyn, Colonel, 11, *Great Bedford-street, Bath*
 Steevens, A. *Taunton*
 Stephenson, Rev. J. H. *Lympsham*
 Stoate, Wm. *Wembdon, Bridgwater*
 Strachey, Sir E., Bart. *Sutton Court, Pensford, Bristol*
 430 Stradling, Rev. W. J. L. *Chilton-super-Polden*
 Stringfellow, A. H. *Taunton*
 Stuart, A. T. B. *Mellifont Abbey, Wookey, Wells*
 Stuckey, V. *Langport*
 Surtees, W. Edward, *Tainfield, Taunton*
 435 Swayne, W. T. *Glastonbury*
 Symes, Rev. R. *Cleeve, Bristol*
- Taplin, T. K. *Mount House, Milverton*
 Taunton, Lady, *Eaton-place, London*
 Taylor, John, *Bristol Library*
 440 Taylor, Peter, *Mountlands, Taunton*
 Taylor, Thomas "
 Terry, Geo. *Mells, Frome*
 Thompson, E. S. *Christ's College, Cambridge*
 Thompson, Geo. C. 6, *Duke-street, Cardiff*
 445 Thompson, Rev. Archer, *Milton Lodge, Wells*
 Thomson, Rev. G. O. L. *The King's College, Taunton*
 Thring, Rev. Godfrey, *Alford, Castle Cary*
 Thring, Theodore, "
 Tilney, G. A. *Watts House, Bishops Lydeard*
 450 Tite, C. *Yeovil*
 Todd, Lt.-Col. *Keynston Lodge, Blandford*

- Tomkins, Rev. H. G. *Weston-super-Mare*
 Tomkins, Rev. W. S. „
 Toms, S. *Chard*
- 455 Tordiffe, Rev. Stafford, *Staplegrove*
 Trask, Charles, *Norton, Ilminster*
 Trevelyan, Sir C. E., Bart., K.C.B. 8, *Grosvenor-crescent, Belygrave-square, London, S.W.*
 Trevelyan Miss, *Nettlecombe Court*
 Trevelyan, Sir A. W., Bart. *Nettlecombe Court, Taunton*
- 460 Trotman, W. R. *Taunton*
 Tucker, Silas, *Spencer House, 19, Larkhall Rise, Clapham, S.W.*
 Tucker, W. J. *Chard*
 Turner, C. J. *Staplegrove*
 Turner, Henry G. „
- 565 Turner, James A. *Stoke-sub-Hamdon*
 Tylor, Edw. Burnett, D.C.L., LL.D., F.R.S., *Linden, Wellington*
 Tynte, Col. Kemeys, *Halswell, Bridgwater*
 Tynte, St. David Kemeys, *Balnageith, Torquay*
 Tyndale, J. W. Warre, *Evercreech, Bath*
- 470 Viney, Rev. R. *Hatch Beauchamp*
 Wade, E. F. *Axbridge*
 Wadhams, Rt. Rev. E. P. *Bishop of Ogdensburg, New York, U.S.A.*
 Waldron, Clement, *Llandaff, S. Wales*
 Walter, W. W. *Stoke-sub-Hamdon*
- 475 Walters, G. *Frome*
 Walton, T. Todd, *Maperton House, Wincanton*
 Ward, Rev. J. W. *Ruishton*
 Warren, J. F. H. *Langport*
 Warren, Rev. J. *Bawdrip*
- 480 Weatherly, Christopher, 39, *High-street, Wapping, London, E.*
 Weatherly, Lionel A., M.D. *Portishead*
 Weaver, Chas., *Chard*
 Weaver, Rev. F. W. *Milton, Evercreech*
 Welch, C. 1, *Morpeth-terrace, Victoria-street, Westminster*
- 485 Welsh, W. I. *Wells*
 Welman, C. N. *Norton Manor*
 Welman, C. C.
 Westlake, W. H. *Taunton*
 White, H. C. *Upland Villa, Wembdon, Bridgwater*
- 490 Whitfield, Rev. E. *Ilminster*

- Williams, Rev. Wadham Pigott, *Bishops Hull*
 Williamson-Bull, Rev. Thos. *Paulton*
 Wilson, Rev. W. C. *Huntspill*
 Winter, J. A. *Maunsell House, Bridgwater*
 495 Winterbotham, W. L., M.B. *Bridgwater*
 Winwood, Rev. H. H. 11, *Cavendish-crescent, Bath*
 Winwood, T. H. R. *Wellisford Manor, Wellington*
 Wood, Rev. J. 10, *Burlington-street, Bath*
 Wood, Alexander, *The Laurels, Horsham, Sussex*
 500 Woodforde, Rev. A. J. *Ansford, Castle Cary*
 Woodforde, F. H., M.D. „ „
 Woodley, W. A. 11, *Richmond Hill, Clifton*
 Wotton, E. *Taunton*
 Yatman, Rev. J. A. *Winscombe, Weston-super-Mare*

Members are requested to inform either of the Secretaries of any errors or omissions in the above list ; they are also requested to authorise their Bankers to pay their subscriptions annually to Stuckey's Banking Company, Taunton ; or to either of their branches ; or their respective London Agents, on account of the Treasurer.

